

AITKIN AIRPORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 11, 2020

4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wallace Frelander, John Welle, Mark Wedel and Mike Arnold.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Gary Tibbitts

ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Bohnsack, Ron Roetzel & Peter Dunn.

1. Call to Order: Mark Wedel called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Wallace Frelander and seconded by John Welle. All aye.
3. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2020 meeting was made by John Welle and seconded by Wallace Frelander. All aye.
4. Maintenance & FBO Report.
 - Equipment Usage Report – May 2020.
 - Fuel Transaction Report – May 2020.
 - The highway department plans to do the final repairs to the REI light sometime during the week of June 15th.
 - Pete Dunn stated that there are holes forming near the manholes south of the runway. Pete will get material from the highway department and fill the holes.
5. Old Business.

2020 Entrance Gate Project – The contracts are prepared and ready for signature. Ron Roetzel stated that we will hold the contract until the final approval of the grant.

Commission Appointment – On May 26, 2020, the Aitkin County Commissioners reviewed and approved an application for appointment from Mike Arnold. Mike has a long history with the Aitkin Airport starting back in the 70's when he was a kid. He currently is employed by the Brainerd Airport as their Compliance Officer. He has a strong desire to keep the Aitkin Municipal Airport operational and successful. Mark Wedel welcomed Arnold to the Commission.

6. New Business.

Accident – On June 9, 2020, an aircraft crashed into the fence while attempting to land at the airport. Neither the pilot nor the passenger was injured. The Aitkin Police Department and the Aitkin Fire Department responded to the incident. The FAA will assist the APD with the investigation to determine the cause of the crash. About 70 feet of fence was damaged and will need to be repaired as soon as possible. Ron Roetzel said that there would be emergency grant funding available to repair the fence if need be, however, the Commission believes the owner of the aircraft should have insurance to cover the cost of the repairs. Upon clearance from the FAA, a motion to repair the fence as quickly as possible was made by Wallace Frelander and seconded by Mike Arnold. All aye. Peter Dunn and the Administrator's Office will coordinate the repair.

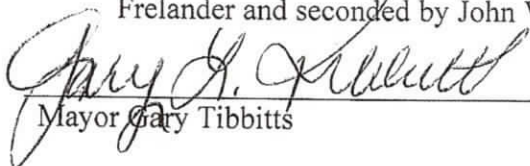
By-Laws – Commission Member Wallace Frelander would like the Commission to consider the definition of “inhabitants” versus “resident”. Frelander stated that these terms have two different definitions under Minnesota Statute. Frelander is moving out of Aitkin County but will continue to own a hangar at the Aitkin Airport and he wishes to remain on the Commission after he moves. He has consulted his Attorney who believes that he qualifies as an inhabitant and should legally be able to keep his Commission Seat. Bohnsack stated that he would expect City Attorney Henry Brucker and Frelander’s Attorney to come to an agreement and then provide legal guidance for the Commission to review. Wedel stated his opinion, when Frelander was appointed to the Commission he was an Aitkin County Resident and feels that he is an asset to the board and should continue his service. Welle concurred with Wedel’s opinion. No official action was taken. The discussion will be tabled until further comment from City Attorney Henry Brucker.

Aitkin County Airport Allocation – A letter from Aitkin County dated May 18, 2020 regarding the Aitkin County Airport 2021 appropriation was received. The current appropriation is \$14,107. The Commission discussed the need for an increase. Bohnsack stated with the award of the \$20,000 in CARES ACT funding (good for 4 years) for operations an increase is likely not needed.

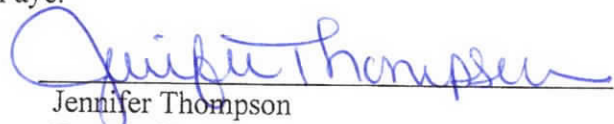
Compass Rose Project – Jackie Brix of the Aitkin Flyers Club in proposing to paint a compass rose at the Aitkin Airport. Jackie will coordinate the volunteers who would like to come this weekend (June 13 & 14) provided she can get the paint. The Commission discussed and had no issue with the project.

Oleen Ag – The Administrator’s Office was anticipating an application from Oleen Ag to operate out of the Aitkin Airport for a period of time to operate crop dusting services for area farmers. A copy of the Minimum Standards and an application was sent to Mr. Oleen, as of the time of the meeting no application had been returned. The Commission agreed to review the application via email if it is submitted prior to the next meeting. No action was taken.

7. **Approval of Bills** - A motion to approve the April 2020 payments in the amount of \$23,974.54 was made by Wallace Frelander and seconded by John Welle. All aye.
8. **Comments from Visitors** - None.
9. **Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m. was made by Wallace Frelander and seconded by John Welle. All aye.



Mayor Gary Tibbitts



Jennifer Thompson
Deputy Clerk