City of Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting (Virtual) September 22, 2020

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Called to Order: at 5:33 by Board Chair, Ben Ennenga.

Roll Call: 

- Board Members Present
  - Ben Ennenga
  - Chris Kostamo
  - Earl Bares (Airport Manager)
  - Tom Manderscheid (Board Liaison)

- Board Members Absent
  - Richard Clapp
  - Dale Hagenbuch

- Guests
  - Bob Monetza (Mayor)
  - Pat McGinnis (City Manager)
  - Mike Dora (City Council Member)

First Call to Audience -- Ben Ennenga: Ben read the prescribed process for audience participation in a virtual meeting, including the phone number to call. Earl Bares reported the September meetings of the GHAA and EAA Chapter 11 were cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns and restrictions. Earle mentioned that the GHAA must soon begin to discuss and plan for the 2021 Dawn Patrol and that the association has taken title of the courtesy car.

Acceptance of August 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes -- Ben Ennenga: Due to there not being a quorum of Board members present, acceptance of the August 25 meeting minutes was deferred.

New Business:

Report Comstock Housing Development -- Pat McGinnis: The proposed housing development located north of Comstock and east of the airport entrance is in the early planning stages. Pat presented this information as a heads-up to the airport community -- he expects there will be minimal impact on the airport CIP. The City Council has a preliminary purchase agreement for as many as 32 single- and two-story homes to be built on the site. Site planning drawings are available to the public.
MDOT Complaint Process – Pat McGinnis: There have been a couple of (rare) complaints to MDOT regarding the airport. One was from a transient aircraft owner who reported he was forced to use a porta-potty on a stop-over. Though he was eventually granted access to the terminal facilities, a complaint was filed by the individual and then addressed by Pat McGinnis to MDOT. Further, the terminal is now open to the public during regular business hours and on weekends when the Manager is present.

A second complaint was filed by the helicopter ride provider (from the summer of 2019) saying he should, essentially, be allowed to operate in and out of the airport any time he chooses. The response from the city, due to the large number of noise complaints and survey responses from the surrounding community, was basically, “No”! The city has no problem saying no to further commercial helicopter ride operations on the basis of noise. Overall, noise complaints, aside of the helicopter ride situation, are fairly consistent. Mr. McGinnis’ response is that a public asset like the airport, should be busy. While noise complaints are taken seriously by the manager and the city, a certain level of noise is to be expected and is acceptable.

MDOT (Aero) has just received the city’s complaint responses and will respond itself.

Old Business: None

Airport Manager Report – Earl Bares: Earl reviewed his September 2020 Airport Manager’s Report,

Notably: Everything is in order to begin the Runway 9/27 rehabilitation project, scheduled to start October 5th (start date revised to October 19th). Both runways will close initially for approximately three days until the west end of 9/27 construction is completed through the runway intersection. Then Runway 18/36 will re-open. The remainder of the Runway 9/27 should take an additional nine days to complete.

CARES Act funds ($30,000) were received and deposited into the airport fund.

MDOT reported operations were down from last year, but there were no repeated helicopter ops this year, accounting for the reduction.

Fuel sales continue to be very strong,

All hangars that can hold aircraft are full and inquiries for hangar space continue.

There was no air safety meeting this year due to COVID. Regarding noise, Sky Dive Grand Haven is varying takeoff directions to “spread out” their noise footprint.


Airport financials are in very good shape. Accounts Receivables 30-60-90-days arrears balance is zero. The Airport Fund cash balance stood at $124,341.56 as of 9-12-2020. City Council approved all contracts brought before the Board last month for recommendation (see Airport Board Meeting Minutes for
August 25, 2020). An RFP for repair of the Sky Dive Grand Haven and maintenance hangar roofs will be posted soon. Tom also again lauded the hard work done by city staff in preparing the required paperwork to secure the CARES Act funding.

Second Call to the Audience – Ben Ennenga: No calls received.

Adjournment – Ben Ennenga: No quorum present to officially vote on adjournment, but the meeting was closed at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kostamo, Secretary