City of Grand Haven Airport Advisory Board Meeting (Virtual)
November 24, 2020

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Called to Order: at 5:32pm by Board Chair Ben Ennenga.

Roll Call – Chris Kostamo:

Board Members Present: Ben Ennenga (Grand Haven, MI)
Richard Clapp (Grand Haven, MI)
Dale Hagenbuch (Grand Haven, MI)
Chris Kostamo (Grand Haven, MI)
Earl Bares, Airport Mgr (Grand Haven, MI)
Tom Manderscheid, Liaison (Grand Haven Chtr Twp, MI)

Guests: Pat McGinnis, City Manager Mike Dora, City Council Member

First Call to Audience – Ben Ennenga: Board Chair Ben Ennenga stated the rules for audience participation during a virtual (Zoom) meeting including the requirements for participants to state name and address, and to adhere to a three-minute limit. Pat McGinnis moderated the phone and Facebook interface. While waiting for possible audience comments, Board Chair Ennenga called for the acceptance of the Meeting Minutes for both the August 25 and September 22, 2020 meetings. Chris Kostamo moved to accept and Richard Clapp seconded. Meeting Minutes were accepted unanimously. Earl Bare reviewed both the October GHAA virtual meeting and the October EAA Chapter 211 virtual meeting. Of note for the GHAA meeting, the courtesy car needs to have the brakes repaired and the Dawn Patrol for 2021 will be held on June 5. Due to COVID restrictions, no breakfast will be served – hot dogs are a possibility -- and the event will be limited to an airport Open House.


New Business –Ben Ennenga:
Recommend to Grand Haven City Council to award the low bid, a contract to Tree Servants, LLC, 506 East North Street Bremen, IN in the amount of $48,460.00 for the removal of trees and restoration of property at 15870 Obrien Ct., known as Parcel E62 and 14444 Angelus Circle known as Parcel E63 pending MDOT/AERO approval and that all necessary bid package documents is satisfactory.

Discussion: Richard Clapp suggested the job be awarded locally and not be given to an out-of-state contractor. Tom Manderscheid explained that work covered by Federal funding pretty much has to be given to the low bidder, that the City would have to have a very compelling reason for not taking the low bid. Jon Van Duinen of Prein and Newhof has worked with this contractor in the past with good success. Earl Bares mentioned that local businesses had been given a chance to bid for the project and that representatives from at least eight companies attended the pre-bid meeting the week prior. Tom explained, in detail, the four bids received and that liability insurance is not an issue even with a low bidder. He added that it is still pending MDOT approval and acceptance of the bid package.

The move to recommend to City Council was made by Chris Kostamo and seconded by Dale Hagenbuch.
The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Business – Ben Ennenga: No old business up for discussion. Richard Clapp asked Earl if the courtesy car was in use. It was not due to needed repair and COVID restrictions.

Airport Manager Report – Earl Bares:
Earl bares reviewed his monthly report. Of note:

- Runway 9/27 construction/re-paving is complete except for final paint and seeding.
- Tree trimming should begin mid-December.
- While the airport had been closed for construction, fuel sales were strong for the period the airport was open.
- Hangar door rollers are an issue for future discussion. Spare parts are getting scarce and replacement are hard to find. Fabrication of door rollers may be prohibitively expensive. While not a critical issue now, it will be down the road.
• Hangars continue to be fully rented. There was some discussion (again) regarding the possibility of having interested private investors build hangars on leased airport land. There seems to be a fair amount of interest but there have been no formal proposals or money offers from said interested investors. While that kind of hangar development is done at some other airports to various degrees of success, the bottom line is what is the impact on our airport revenue? Leasing land typically results in less revenue than leasing hangar space. Earl mentioned that new hangars are part of the AIP and would thus have government funding when built in the future. But, nothing is “off the table” and we need to study the issue for further discussion.

• The BLP smoke stack obstruction lighting is inoperative. A NOTAM has been issued about that but Earl believes the stack should have working obstruction lights. He has talked to the FAA about it and their response was that they “will look into it”.

Administrative Liaison Report – Tom Manderscheid:
+ Receivables in good shape and financially, the airport overall is in good shape.
+ Cash balance as of 11/14/2020 stands at $133,017. Once all obligations are met (including the repair costs on the Skydive and Maintenance hangar roofs) and MDOT reimbursements are received, Tom estimates the cash balance will stand at about $199,000.
+ Hopefully the tree work bid award will occur around the second week of December and the actual cutting/trimming will begin soon thereafter.
+ Re-roof of the Skydive Grand Haven and maintenance hangars was budgeted for $25,000. The low bid was $26,380. City Council approved that amount and the contractor will probably start the work in the spring of 2021.
+ An estimate for the re-coat of the roofs of Hangar Rows D, F, A and B was obtained but was too high. Tom and Earl are attempting to get another estimate from a different contractor who has done work for the city in the past, hoping that will be more reasonable. We need an estimate for the CIP for next year.
+ Earl is still doing a “fantastic job”!

Second call to Audience – Ben Ennenga: Ben again reiterated the rules for public comment. Pat McGinnis said at the start of the meeting, there were twenty-five viewers, which decreased to five by the end of the meeting. Mike Dora asked if the smokestack being unlit is a liability to the City and Pat McGinnis replied that he would look into that issue. Jean Constantine, 307 S 4th St, Grand Haven, called in to express her appreciation as a citizen for the work the Board does.

Adjournment – Ben Ennenga: Richard Clapp moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Dale Hagenbuch. Being unanimously agreed upon, Ben closed the meeting at 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Kostamo, Secretary