

Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting Minutes January 23, 2024

Chairperson Ben Ennenga called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Roll Call: Acting Board Secretary Denny Swartout

Members present: Ben Ennenga, Denny Swartout, Tricia Harrell, Dale Hagenbuch

Absent: Richard Clapp, (excused)

Others Present: Earle Bares, Airport Manager

Guests: Jennifer Bares, Eric Byington, Mayor Bob Monetza, Tim Price Asst. City Mgr., Ethan Marquardt (sp?)

First Call to the audience:

Jennifer Bares- Failure of David Rozelle of Airman Academy flight school to uphold oral agreement and sign contract standards with fixed based operator E2 Technologies. Police were called in after Mr. Rozelle continued to operate at the airport in the EAA hangar.

Eric Byington- Mr. Rozelle should have negotiated any disagreement with contract.

Earl Bares- Grand Haven Aviation Association, meeting was held on January 4th, 2024. Airport open house on June 1, 2024 with Dawn patrol breakfast. 75th anniversary of the airport with breakfast at 11 am. Will feature the Hooligans flight team. Latest version of Microsoft Flight simulator is loaded on the GHAA simulator with all Grand Haven airport data downloaded.

December 2023 Minutes:

Approval of December 19, 2023 Minutes

Ben Ennenga made motion to amend November 28, 2023 minutes regarding “new roof on hangar row A” changing to read “roof coating to existing roof”. Motion to accept revision by Swartout, and seconded by Ennenga. Motion carried.

Motion by Swartout, seconded by Ennenga. Motion carried.

New business:

Presentation by David Rozelle of Airman Academy. Mr. Rozelle was absent, but showed late to the meeting at 5:46 pm. Motion was made by Chairman Ennenga to allow Mr. Rozelle to make

his presentation. 3 out of 4 boardmembers approved of Mr. Rozelle being allowed to make his presentation.

Mr. Rozelle is requesting a SASO for his flight school. Stated that he is not in business to make money, but rather in business to make pilots. Recognizes and intends to operate within the airport minimum standards. Maintained compliance with FAA regulations. Gave an extensive briefing regarding his planned business. Described his business has access to multiple flighti instructors and students. Described where his need to occupy space at the airport. Gave his background as an instructor. Intends to add a new leaseback aircraft to his fleet every year. Two year goal to purchase his own aircraft.

Questions:

Chairman Ennenga: Asked specifically where he would intend to rent space. Mentioned that the EAA hangar and Skydive Hangar cannot be subleased.

Mr. Rozelle: Has queried the city regarding use of the terminal building conference room.

Board member Harrel: Asked Mr. Rozelle if he would be able and willing to remove his materials from the conference room if rented so as to accommodate other groups renting the space. He replied that he would have no issue vacating as necessary. Ms. Harrel asked if he is willing to work with the FBO so as not to interfere with operations at the airport.

Chairman Ennenga: Did he try to negotiate with E2 Tech., to operate? Mr. Rozelle was not comfortable with the contract terms, and did try to negotiate.

Dale Hagenbuch: How many students at 3GM? Mr. Rozelle: Approximately 55 students.

Tricia Harrel: Expressed that Airman Academy should be the right fit for the airport and have a high level of integrity and professionalism. Asked that since Mr. Rozelle does not have a reputation for following the rules and the guidelines of operating at 3GM, such as continuing to operate without permission, how will he operate at 3GM going forward?

Mr. Rozelle responded with mentioning that he received a court document that he verified was not produced by the local court. He has intent to pay required fees.

Board member Denny Swartout: Commented that Mr. Rozelle has not shown professionalism in his business dealings with the F.B.O.

Chairman Ennenga: Commented on the services and space granted to the F.B.O. as a source of supplemental income for managing the airport in addition to salary given by the city. Expressed support for the airport manager.

Vote regarding recommendation to city council allowing Airman Academy to operate at 3GM as a SASO. Board member Harrel abstained due to conflict of interest. 3/5 voting. Chairman Ennenga took the vote as follows:

Board member Swartout- No

Board member Hagenbuch- No

Chairman Ennenga- No

Airman Academy is not recommended to city council to operate as a SASO.

Old business:

Tree Removal on South Approach. Re-applied to receive a General Utility license. MDOT to inspect work regarding tree clearing. Earl showed trees that have encroached on the protected approach area to runway 36. Problem trees have been trimmed or removed. All work has been completed.

Fuel terminal operation: No problems in installation. Electronic processing number was set up to a very old account. Monies were sent to the wrong place as a result. A new account number was quickly setup and monies recovered. Wireless connectivity was faulty and repaired.

Security, safety, and noise abatement

Several taxiway lights to be replaced.

Airport manager report: Earle Bares

Activity

Non-local operations were up. Weather was a factor for Skydive Grand Haven.

Projects

Tree removal project complete on south approach, with stumps to be removed in spring.

New fuel credit card terminal installed.

Snowplowing to start at 3 a.m. daily.

Bidding is out for hangar roof painting and maintenance hangar painting.

Still waiting for MDOT to draft a letter for interim use of hangar space. Chairman Ennenga questioned this because we have been waiting several months for this. MDOT said they will do it when they "get around to it"

Fuel sales & Operations

Fuel Sales were down, mostly due to not having a working fuel terminal.

2 Gal. Jet A; 242 Gal. 100 LL; 886 total Gallons fuel sold in December.

3 Tie Downs, 60 Aircraft home based on the field.

Updated hangar building costs have risen 5-10%

Worked on 1 aircraft.

Hangars are fully occupied.

Problem with NE terminal building door frame.

Several runway edge lights need repair due to plowing.

Notams

6 current NOTAMS (4 are temporary for snow)

Airport Liaison Report:

Airport Cash balance: \$345,247.57. Includes fuel pump to cost of \$27k. Does not include bill to remove trees on the South approach. Also does not include bill from Prein & Newhoff for survey services on the South approach.

Two RFP's for hangar row A roof coating. RFP for maintenance hangar painting.

Budget under expenses for diesel fuel. \$1,000/\$1,500 spent. Money should have been coming out of Motor Pool line item. Budget adjustment will be made. Diesel was used for a tractor at the airport, but it belongs to Motor Pool.

Receivables under 30 days, \$3,365 which is due to timing and receipt of hangar rents.

Opening bids for RFP's on February 7th at city hall.

Consultant selection sent to Zach Brohman, MDOT. Design of runway 18/36, and Skydive hangar leak near hangar door were mentioned for budget planning of 2024-25.

Proposed increase in hangar rents \$5 for resident and non-resident due to increases in utility costs.

Capital budget: Amended budget for 2023-24, will be asking that RFP work be completed this year for budget purposes. Heating units added to 2026-27, as we are expecting to replace old heating units. \$42,000 for design of runway 18/36. \$396,743 for construction/rehab of that runway. \$10,000 for treework. This is very preliminary. Hangar construction is also included in future budgeting. Some projects will include 90% federal, 5% State and 5% local funding.

These are preliminary numbers.

Chairman Ennenga commented that the intent is to raise hangar row C and build replacement hangars.

Second call to the audience:

Bob Monetza requested clarity regarding airport board intent to recommend denial of Airman Academy as a SASO.

Tim Price, asst. City Manager, explained that the board should have had two votes. One for whether Airman Academy meets minimum standards and a second for the recommendation to city council for operation as a SASO.

Chairman Ennenga expressed that we will need to identify which minimum standards Airman Academy did not meet.

Ethan (Marquardt) sp?- Expressed that during the last year instructing at the airport he has been harassed, threatened, defamed, slandered, and even had authorities called on him. Mentioned airport manager drove to airport at 3 am proceeding to yell at him in front of a student because he made a low approach to clear the runway of deer. Airport manager has told students that he is not allowed to operate on the field.

(Unintelligible outburst from audience.)

Adjournment: 7:23 pm

Minutes submitted by board secretary, Richard Clapp

