

City of Elkhart
Board of Aviation Commissioners Meeting
March 30, 2022

The Board of Aviation Commissioners meeting was called to order by Bruce Shreiner at 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at the Elkhart Municipal Airport Administration Building, 1211 CR 6 W, Elkhart, Indiana 46514. Commissioners Tom Shoff & Shari Mellin were present. Also present were Andy Jones, Karen Shaw, Ryan Sherwood, Dwight Fish & Dustin Fish. Corinne Straight & Paul Shaffer were present via WebEx. Doug Thorne was absent.

Approval of Minutes:

Shari Mellin made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2022 meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Tom Shoff. There being no further discussion, the motion PASSED unanimously.

Approval of Claims:

Shari Mellin made a MOTION to approve claims as submitted in the amount of \$24,258.64. The motion was SECONDED by Tom Shoff. There being no further discussion the motion to approve the claims PASSED unanimously.

Agenda Amendment:

Shari Mellin made a MOTION to amend the March agenda. The motion was SECONDED by Tom Shoff. There being no further discussion, the motion to amend the March agenda PASSED unanimously.

Manager's Report:

Andy advised the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) has arrived and we have submitted the required activation paperwork to the FAA; we are now waiting to hear from Mesotech for an installation date. Andy advised he will be attending the Snow & Ice Symposium in Buffalo, NY in May. Andy stated that he believes it is important to get a first-hand look at the current state of the art snow & ice control equipment, especially considering the cost of replacing the existing snow broom. Andy advised he also wants to see what friction measurement devices are available. Currently runway braking action is measured using a Tapley meter. To be sure the Tapley is working properly it is sent out for professional certified calibration each year. The unit has been in service since the 1980's. Because braking action reporting has changed overtime it is time to consider adopting newer techniques for providing runway friction measuring data to the Air Traffic Control Tower. The fence project delays continue due to supply shortages. Mr. Shreiner asked why the new fence has no top rail? Paul Shaffer with BF&S explained that the FAA is responsible for that design change. From a security standpoint chain link fencing is more difficult to climb by a would-be trespasser if no top rail is present. Andy advised that supply chain challenges continue to delay starting the installation of the new LED lighting for runway 9/27. He expects the project to begin before the next BOAC meeting in April. Airport tenants, the Airport, BF&S, and the contractor, are working together on scheduling runway closures at times that will have the least negative impact on our airport users. In addition to be opening on the weekends and during daylight hours when the ATCT is closed, 9/27 will be open for at least one hour first thing in the morning on weekdays, again from noon till 1PM, and from 5PM until sunset. These closures are unavoidable during the first 3 weeks of construction. Andy mentioned in an earlier board meeting that the public have been asking if the airport would once again host A Salute to Veterans WWII reenactment. An admission fee will be charged however the event will be Free to All Veterans. After discussing possible dates for the event with Mayor Roberson and others, May, of 2023 is when the event will likely take place. Andy asked the Mayor to consider including additional funds in the FY 2023 Aviation budget to help offset about ¼ of the cost of hosting the event. The remaining funds, approximately \$150,000 will be raised through donations and sponsorships. Andy advised our new full-time air traffic controller, Aidan Alt started training in the tower a little over a week ago. Aidan's job

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performance assessments are very positive. At the end of April, the FAA will evaluate him for approval to work alone in the tower. Once this happens, Henry Weber will move to part-time. Andy advised that we have one airfield maintenance position currently open but have already begun the interview process and have one employment offer pending for the position.

Mr. Shreiner advised the first item under New Business is the FY 2022 AIP grant application for Rehabilitate Runway 18-36 Pavement, Environmental & Design, Taxiway D-4 Standards Corrections Feasibility Study. Paul Shaffer advised this grant application deadline is April 11, 2022. This is in the Capital Improvement Plan; the only exception is the FAA has made a change in that they want to get rid of all taxiways that are in line with runways, which is the case of Taxiway D-4 at Elkhart Airport. In order for BF&S to conduct a feasibility study, the funds are short by \$27,300. Paul advised BF&S would study up to five options. Dwight Fish asked if TIF funds could be used for this? Andy advised he will ask Mayor Roberson to look at ideas for funding options. Paul advised there might be other grant funds by the time this is due. Mr. Fish asked what the timeframe is for this study? Paul advised they will start the study in September 2022 and will finish around March or April 2023. Ms. Mellin made a MOTION to approve the FY 2022 AIP grant application Rehabilitate Runway 18-36 & Taxiway D-4 study. The motion was SECONDED by Mr. Shoff. There being no further discussion, the motion PASSED unanimously.

Mr. Shreiner advised the next item under New Business is the Proposed off airport construction. Andy advised that the FAA brought to his attention two off airport construction applications they received. Andy advised he is very concerned because both proposed buildings are directly in line with the approach to Runway 9. One of the buildings would be within the existing Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). Any construction in this area is a hazard to people, aircraft, and property. In addition, the proposed construction would hinder possible future expansion of Runway 9. Lastly, our grant agreements with the FAA require us to object or risk losing our ability to receive future FAA grants. Andy asks the Board to consider approving a formal objection to these construction applications. Ms. Mellin asked how the Board would go about this? Paul Shaffer advised the BOAC would send a letter to the FAA stating the reasons for the objection(s) to the proposed development. The FAA will then place this in the airspace case response back to the applicants. Ms. Mellin made a MOTION to approve the BOAC sending an objection letter to the FAA and include asking the FAA to deny any proposed construction applications that will affect the Elkhart Airport runway protection zone. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoff. There being no further discussion, the motion PASSED unanimously.

Mr. Shreiner advised the last item under New Business is the Resolution R-23 non-essential airport property use for non-aeronautical activities. Andy advised that at the last board meeting he discussed the possibility that the City Parks & Recreation Department (CPRD) may be interested in leasing property to be used as a dog park at the airport. This would be property outside the fence. As it currently stands the CPRD are assessing several different sites, but are still interested in an area on the south side of the airport that could be designated as non-essential for aeronautics use. Andy stated that a donor may underwrite the cost of the park's construction. Because developing the parcel(s) for such a use could seem cumbersome or overly challenging to a donor, Andy suggests the BOAC pass a non-binding resolution in support of the idea. Andy advised the City Legal department along with Doug Thorne, have drafted such a resolution to be considered for passage today. Mr. Fish asked if there would be any expenses incurred by the airport? Andy advised some things are still up for discussion, but likely none. Mr. Shoff made a MOTION to approve the Resolution R-23. The motion was SECONDED by Ms. Mellin. There being no further discussion, the motion PASSED unanimously.

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Privilege of the Floor:

Bruce Shreiner opened comments. Councilman Fish advised he attended the community meeting last evening regarding the geese problems in Elkhart, and it was discussed that green laser lights might be one way to deter them and asked if the airport uses these? Andy advised that currently the airport does not have any lasers but he has been researching the subject. Airports, vineyards, and farms, all over the world have been reporting having great success with the use of lasers to scare off nuisance wildlife including birds, with great success. The airport has received grant funds that are to be used for the purchase of two such hand-held lasers.

Adjournment:

Tom Shoff made a MOTION to adjourn. The motion was SECONDED by Shari Mellin. There being no further business, the motion PASSED and the meeting was adjourned.

Next regular BOAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 4pm. Location will be the Elkhart Municipal Airport Administration Building, 1211 County Road 6 W., Elkhart, IN 46514 & via WebEx.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce D Shreiner for Tom Shoff
Tom Shoff – Aviation Board Secretary

4/27/22
Date

