



Townsend City-County Airport Board Meeting December 20th, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Flynn Building

Board Members Present: Bob Hollister, Seth Wolfgram, Jessica Lancello, Adam MacDonald

Board Members Absent: Rob Bargatze, Jessica Lancello

Commissioner: Darrel Folkvord

Airport Manager: Dwight Thompson

Administrative Assistant: Aubra J. Lewis

Guests: Rob and Robin Oleson, Steve Viscon, Matt Nelson

Adam called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Public Comment: None

Financials: The current claims were presented as follows:

- True Value \$23.53
- Townsend Hardware - \$21.72
- Credit Card bill - \$377.49 already processed
- Grant closeout - \$18,848 already processed
- Bob moved to approve payment of the claims. Seth seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Discussion of the Minutes: Bob made a motion to approve the November 15th minutes. Seth seconded. No discussion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Col. Rob Oleson – State Director of Aviation and Safety for the Montana Air National Guard – Update and discussion on the Limestone Hills

- Discussion of restricted airspace, history, concerns, and how it will affect this area
- Environmental assessment
- This plan needs to go through legal, as well as another public comment period.

Lance Bowser RPA Update: There was a meeting with three FAA representatives and three county representatives. FAA funding is going to be difficult in 2024, although they are very supportive of our project. Some highlights that were discussed were:

- We need to prioritize what we need vs what we wish to have
- It will be important to show how much and for what purposes our airport is being used
- Hangar inquiries should be documented
- Number of additional hangars to be added and where they will be
- Ideas on how to finance future airport projects – economic grants, guaranteed loan through Montana Aeronautics
- The FAA was pleased with the Airport Board for being good stewards of our funds

- The FAA was comfortable with how the Airport Board handled the topic of hangar homes and how we are protecting the zoning around the airport

Hangar Lease Requests/Discussion: Wade Litton's lease was presented for signing by the board.

- Bob made a motion to approve the hangar lease for Wade Litton. Seth seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
- Brian Foster is considering waiting until the taxiway goes in. Adam will call him with an FAA update from the meeting.

Airport By-Laws: The City Council has voted to discontinue its involvement with the Airport. We will need to remove the word "City" in all places in the By-laws. In addition, Article 3 should be adjusted about city appointment, and the county attorney is reviewing the Montana Code Annotated 67-10-205 section.

Airport Manager Update:

- Credit Card reader is working
- Sign is up
- Chris Fuher – averaging 22 flights/day. Summers will be more.
- We will use the tarmac for hangar construction
- Jeremy Metz from Three Forks has requested a hangar and has been put on the list
- Clarification on Airport Board position – Board is currently filled. Everyone is welcome to come and give input or volunteer.

Guest Introduction: Steve Viskin interested in being involved with the Airport Board and the community.

Discussion of fuel price change:

- It was decided to keep the fuel price the same right now (\$5.95). Adam has not heard anything about a split load yet.
- We are in the middle/low range for fuel prices compared to surrounding areas.

New Business:

- Commissioners signed the FAA financial certification forms on all of the engineering reimbursement that we received for our projects. They were sent to Lance.
- Bob will have the complete cost of living comparisons for Bozeman, Great Falls, and Helena. This will be addressed in January.

Rob made a motion to adjourn. Seth seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: 7:25 PM

Voting Members of the Airport Board: Adam MacDonald (Chair) Bob Hollister, Robert Bargatze, Seth Wolfgram, Jessica Lancello; Non-Voting: Commissioner Darrel Folkvord

Approved By:

Chair: _____ Date _____

Adam MacDonald

Administrative Assistant _____ Date _____
Aubra J. Lewis