

**Townsend City-County Airport Board Meeting
March 15th, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Flynn Building**

Board Members Present: Adam MacDonald, Bob Hollister, Rob Bargatze, Jessica Lancello

Commissioner: Darrel Folkvord

Airport Manager: Dwight Thompson

City Rep: Angie Wintrow – Not present

Administrative Assistant: Aubra J. Lewis

Guests: Seth Wolfgram

Adam called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Discussion of the February 15th minutes. Bob asked for a correction to the acronym AWAS to AWOS. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jessica with the amendment. The motion was seconded by Rob. The vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion passed.

Financials: Currently there is \$133,599.85 in the Airport Cash account and \$216,484.80 in the CIP account. Two claims were presented to the Board. One for Aubra's printer ink from Walmart for \$26.99, and the other to Townsend Hardware in the amount of \$15.47 for the out of service sign on the pump. A motion was made to approve the claims by Jessica, seconded by Rob with 4 in favor; 0 opposed. Motion carried.

Lance Bowser RPA Update: There were no major changes for this month, so Lance did not attend. It was noted by Darrel that the buy/sell agreement was currently being reviewed by the county attorney.

Hangar Lease Agreement: Adam reported the county attorney is currently looking at the county/city lease agreement. Aubra noted it was sent to Debbie Kelley for the auditor this last week.

City/County Airport: Darrel just wanted the board to be aware that the City Counsel is currently researching the history of its financial involvement in the airport. Darrel said the City funds \$14,000 to the airport. There will be more information forthcoming. Bob did note that the medical helicopter has been able to service the Billings hospital, that would benefit the city, as well as county.

Airport Manager Update: Dwight reported about the Aviation Conference. Some highlights of that conference were:

- Montana Aeronautics requested an increase in project funding from 90%-95% and requested the \$150,000 nonprimary money be raised to \$200,000 to offset inflation and any left-over money be available to airports.
- State Aeronautics has two programs available for training for updates and airport language and an airport manager training for equipment and finding surplus equipment. They would be willing to come to one of our meetings. Craig Kenfield also holds trainings for small airports. The board felt this would be beneficial for us.
- Courtesy Car insurance may lower with House Bill 103.
- New manager pickup was received from Search and Rescue. Dwight got a quote from Top Gun Autobody to remove the decal from the side and clean the residue for \$182.00. The truck has a hitch but will need a receiver and 2" ball. A motion was made by Rob to approve the quote for Top Gun Auto to remove the truck decal and clean the residue. It was seconded by Bob, 4 approved, 0 opposed, motion passed.

- Fuel pump is running temporarily while the parts are ordered.
- Bob and Dwight installed a wind sock at Canyon Ferry.
- Garage door handle is broken.
- There is a gopher problem that needs to be addressed. Dwight reported that he contacted a vertebrate expert from Lewistown for advice. Bob noted that the State Aeronautics has a L-shaped trap and poison pellets. They will loan us the traps and give us the pellets. Dwight will check in to that.
- The weeds need to be sprayed. It was voted on last fall. Bob also suggested rolling it and planting grass seed. Darrel will contact Jessica. Canyon Ferry also needs to be rolled. A notification needs to be posted before to let people know. There was discussion about using the no till drill. Jessica will talk to Dylan since they are going to rent it soon.
- Yellowstone Airshow August 12th-13th in Billings

Weed Eater: We need to buy one. There was discussion about checking with the State Surplus to purchase a commercial one. Dwight will look in to the purchase of a weed eater.

AWOS Funding: Rob updated the board on his visit with Peter Fisher the pilot for Billings Clinic.

- After consulting with his managers, Peter noted that there was no funding at this time
- Dwight suggested meeting with Jenny Clowes (CEO of the Billings Hospital) here in town. So far, she has not been available for contact.
- Rob talked with All Weather Inc. that sells AWOS. He presented some material about the systems available. There was no pricing available at this time. We may want to add lightening detection. A review of the information Lance shared in last month's meeting was discussed. Discussion about the difference between certified vs. noncertified was explained by Rob. FAA won't fund noncertified.
- The Three Forks airport was discussed as a comparison.

Gunnery Range: Enough negative comment from the public was gathered that the Air Force is going to have to put out an additional survey for Broadwater pilots. Rob sent a 167-page report of the findings to the board prior to the meeting for review. Concern about encroachment of our airport and airspace to Helena. Darrel gave some additional information. Rob shared some graphics from the packet, showing the restricted area is heavily crossed. A questionnaire should be coming soon.

Discussion of fuel price change: Adam reported that the wholesale price was \$4.74. Adam suggested leaving the price at is. We are averaging 27 gal/day. Adam is going to go out and check how much fuel is in the tank. Adam thinks there should be close to 9,000.

Townsend Airport Website: Aubra will try to add more pictures to the slideshow on the main page. Dwight gets about one phone call/day. Adam suggested because he is using his phone for business, the board should pay a portion of his phone bill. Darrel suggested either providing a phone or giving a stipend to put towards Dwight's phone cost to defray the cost. The board agreed to some kind of compensation.

New Business:

- Rob informed the board on military LATN flights (low altitude navigation) and experiences he has had. These are legal and the FAA is aware of the situation.

- Darrel gave the board a list of Aeronautic funding and the amount given to local airports from the Montana Aeronautics Newsletter. It gives a sense of what is being given to other airports as we plan our projects.
- The Board discussed the 20-year-old fuel system, and Darrel suggested the board start thinking about when to replace it. Dwight asked if that could be added to the budget, if we have to fund it ourselves. Darrel said that was a possibility.
- Adam will give Dwight the aviation fuel quality assurance requirements that might help with keeping the fuel filled.
- Beacon – Rob brought up the beacon that needs to be maintained or replaced, per Mike Ferguson. It was already discussed in September of 2022 under airport improvement with Lance with the lighting. It does need to be maintained until then.

Guest Speaker: Seth Wolfram introduced himself and spoke to the board about his interest in serving. He will get his letter of interest to Tacy.

Bob made a motion to adjourn. Jessica seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved By:

Chair: _____ Date _____
Adam MacDonald

Administrative Assistant _____ Date _____
Aubra J. Lewis