

Winnebago County Board of Supervisors
Aviation Committee

Date: August 7, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Present: Maribeth Gabert, Harold Singstock, Larry Lautenschlager, Robert Warnke & Thomas Konetzke

Also Present: Jim Schell, Airport Director; Peter Rausch, Maintenance & Operations Manager;
Jennifer Jensen, NextJen Studios; Sean Elliott, EAA; Rod McNeil, Basler Flight Service;
Audra Hoy & Art Rathjen, GOEDC; Mark Dyni, Air Traffic Mgr.; Jared Huss, FVTC; Sandy Forsgren,
Tom Gabert, Wayne Daniels, Fred Stadler & Teresa Novak, tenants

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gabert at 8:30 a.m.

1. **Approve Minutes of July 3, 2019:** Supv. Konetzke moved to approve the minutes of July 3, 2019, seconded by Supv. Lautenschlager. Motion carried 5/0.
2. **Public comments on agenda items or any item under the jurisdiction of this committee:** None
3. **Airport Director's Report:**
 - A) *AirVenture 2019 Recap:* Mr. Schell noted the challenges due to rainfall in the days prior to the convention. The Airport worked closely with EAA, ATC, FAA and volunteers to get a high number of planes onto the field. It was a very safe event with only three minor incidents. Mr. Schell noted a few facts from EAA's "Fact & Figures" for 2019. There were 642,000 attendees which was a 6.8 percent increase from 2018. More than 10,000 aircraft arrived at Wittman Regional Airport and other airports in east-central Wisconsin. Wittman alone had 16,807 aircraft operations in 11 days with an average of approximately 127 takeoffs/landings per hour. Supv. Lautenschlager asked Mr. Schell to get the report to County Clerk Sue Ertmer so it can be given to all board members at the next board meeting.
 - B) *2020 Budget Preview:* Mr. Schell went through all the noted items on the preliminary 2020 budget with the committee. Supv. Warnke stated he would like money put into the budget for the replacement of the G & H hangars. Supv. Singstock stated there is \$28 million in the county's general fund and this could be used for hangars. Supv. Lautenschlager agrees that hangar project should get moving.
 - C) *Taxiway A Project Update:* Mr. Schell stated the bids were opened on July 11 and two very competitive bids were received. One from Vinton Construction and one from Michel's Corporation. Vinton was the lowest bidder at \$7,501,944. With OMNI engineering & administration fees, we are anticipating a construction cost of approximately \$8.3 million for the project which makes the County's share approximately \$417,000. The anticipated construction cost of \$8.3 million is down from the last estimate of \$10.5 million. The federal and state grant applications are being submitted through the BOA and once the determination on grant funding is awarded, the contracts for work will be awarded and contracts will be brought forward for approval. Supv. Lautenschlager also asked that this information be shared with the County Board.
4. **Operations & Maintenance Report – Pete Rausch:** Mr. Rausch explained to the committee about modifications made to the airfield for AirVenture, painting the dots & squares and painting the parallel runways. Then after the convention everything was put back to the original set-up. The two nights of fireworks created a lot of debris to be cleaned up and the crew was glad to have an extra sweeper from Oshkosh Truck. It takes a fair amount of work to get everything ready for the show and ongoing work during the convention keeping the grounds in good shape. It was also mentioned that EAA reimburses the County for all staff time, equipment and material expenses related to preparation and restoration work associated with AirVenture.
5. **Business Development & Marketing Report – Jennifer Jensen:** Ms. Jensen distributed a report to the committee detailing the business development efforts associated with AirVenture. Ms. Jensen & Mr. Schell met with 21 companies that were on the initial list to visit during AirVenture week and also met with 30 additional companies. Ms. Jensen stated when speaking with prospective companies they saw no advantage to extending the taxiway further than connecting it to the business park property as each company would have their own specific needs for aircraft apron and taxiway configuration within the park. Ms. Jensen talked about a few companies she's met with and explained some of their reasons of why they haven't built here. Ms. Jensen & Mr. Schell met with a company called Kitfox Aircraft, a kit plane manufacturer who has an interest in building a hangar here that could house a sales center for the manufacturer. Kitfox would not be an anchor tenant for the

business park at this time as their proposed development would be relatively small in scale. Ms. Jensen told the committee over 10,000 images were taken during AirVenture and these will be used for promotional purposes.

6. **EAA Report:** Sean Elliott stated AirVenture went very well this year with 642,000 attendees. In two weeks, planning will start for AirVenture 2020. One attraction that is scheduled for next year are the Snowbirds. Mr. Elliott stated EAA has had their strongest working relationship with the airport that it has ever had and thanked Mr. Schell & Mr. Rausch for the great partnership.
7. **Discuss & Approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$20,219.00 from the Airport's Unrestricted Fund Balance to Airfield Grounds Maintenance for repair work to the Airport perimeter road:** Mr. Schell explained this spring was very hard on the grounds due to rapid snow melt and quickly rising temperatures which caused substantial flooding resulting in damage to the perimeter road. The County's Highway department worked on repairs but the cost of the work exceeded our 2019 grounds maintenance account. Motion to approve the budget transfer was made by Supv. Konezke, seconded by Supv. Lautenschlager. Motion carried 5/0.
8. **Chairman's Report:** Supv. Gabert informed everyone about the very nice article which was done by Jack Pelton in EAA's Sport Aviation Magazine, thanking the community for 50 years of support. Supv. Gabert also thanked the tenants for attending the meeting. Supv. Gabert also stated she wanted the hangar project to move forward and for Mr. Schell to pursue funding for hangar developments in 2020.
9. **Committee Member Statements/Suggestions/Items for Future Agenda:** Supv. Singstock would like a report from the Tenant Advisory Group and a budget update. Mr. Schell informed the committee there would be an update on the Master Plan project from Mead & Hunt at the September meeting.
10. **Set Next Meeting Date:** Next meeting is set for September 4, 2019.
11. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Supv. Singstock, seconded by Supv. Lautenschlager. Motion carried 5/0. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana M. Ulrich
Administrative Assistant
Wittman Regional Airport