

TOWN OF CABLE
AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 12th, 2020 - 4:30 P.M.

AGENDA NOTE: This meeting was held remotely through Zoom.

ATTENDING:

Airport Commission Chairman: Doug Rowe; Commissioners Dick Fredericks, Kelly Nelson, Bob Rasmussen, Pat Rogers, Sue Thurn

Treasurer: Kelly Rauch

Secretary: Deanne Allen

Guests; Matt Messina, Wisconsin BOA

Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

Karl Kastrosky, Cable Rod and Gun Club

Dale Kruse

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Commissioner Thurn, seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION carried.

APPROVAL OF JULY 8, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Rowe noted one correction on page 1. A reference to Commissioner Kelly in the motion to approve the minutes should read Commissioner Nelson.

MOTION by Commissioner Rowe, seconded by Commissioner Rogers to approve the July 8, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Rauch reported that the balance on the last bank statement was \$4,262. There is \$17,764 in fuel savings. A review of deposits for the year indicates that Drummond has not sent in its payment of \$8500. Commissioners Fredericks and Rowe transferred \$5,000 into checking, and all bills are paid. A transfer will be needed for fuel expenses.

MOTION by Commissioner Rasmussen, second by Commissioner Nelson to approve the Treasurer's report. MOTION carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Airport Manager Mike Nichols reported the good news that the Reuger hangar is now under construction. Brent Walstad from Morton Buildings has requested documentation

showing the hangar is not a commercial building. The project must have approval from the State of WI. If the hangar is a commercial building, the building plans must also be submitted for approval to the State of WI. The building must meet commercial standards, even if it is not a commercial building.

The first coating of microseal has been done on the ramp. A double coat will be done.

The airport sold 5000 gallons of fuel in July. Over 600 gallons remains in the tank. A new order of fuel will be needed by the end of August.

The mower is currently working. Rick Gruel Landscaping did the last mowing but did not mow the turf runway. The invoice was 16.5 hours at \$50/hour. Commissioner Thurn requested the Commission not authorize such a high expense for mowing in the future. Another option is to ask Road Foreman Jason Swanson of the Town of Cable to use the town mower so Mike can do the work.

UPDATE FROM BOA REPRESENTATIVE MARK GRACZYKOWSKI AND MATT MESSINA, DISCUSSION OF ENTITLEMENT PROJECTS, REIMBURSEMENT OF PREVIOUS PROJECTS; LAWN MOWING EQUIPMENT, TRACTOR AND QTPOD

Mr. Messina reported the approval to purchase a mower up to \$25,000 in cost for the Cable Union Airport. If the cost is under \$25,000, quotes are needed. The new mower must last 10 years before another purchase will be considered. Commissioners discussed a 15-foot pull behind at quoted at \$18,000. A mower with a snow blower attachment would be \$25,000; and with a cab the cost would be \$33,000.

Chair Rowe noted that if the BOA is committed to \$25,000, the Commission will be receiving reimbursements for the QTPOD and blacktopping that could cover the additional \$8,000 for a snow blower attachment and cab.

Mr. Messina explained that the \$25,000 is the limit of procurement with three quotes. The BOA cannot participate in an expenditure over \$25,000 without official bids.

Commissioner Rasmussen stated if it took Gruel 16 hours to mow not including the turf runway, it is better to get a 15-foot mower which would be under \$20,000. Then the town tractor could be used. There would be no snow blower. Mike will check with Jason on use of the tractor and attachments that would work.

MOTION by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Nelson to purchase a 15-foot mower. MOTION carried.

Commissioner Rasmussen agreed to get quote from Northland Equipment and send to BOA. Mr. Messina will follow up with a contract with Northland.

Reimbursements

Mr. Messina reported that reimbursement for the QTPOD and paving for the hangar approach is in process.

Beacon

Mr. Messina will develop plans for the beacon tower to be bid early next year.

Update on Compliance Issues

There was no new information to report.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION WITH KARL KASTROSKY OF THE CABLE ROD AND GUN CLUB - LAND CONTRACT AND FUTURE PARKING OF VEHICLES ON AIRPORT AND CLUB PROPERTY FOR BIRKIE EVENTS

Karl Kastrosky reported that the Gun Club plans on making payment in fall on the land contract.

A request from Cooper Engineering to remove 7 or 8 trees was approved by the Gun Club.

Brad Volker added that the Airport has easements from the Gun Club for removal of trees, but the airport does not have easements from other neighboring property owners.

The Gun Club is in the process of writing a grant for DNR funding to improve noise, security and better identify boundaries by fencing the entire property. He requested a letter of support from the Airport Commission. The grant is a 50/50 match which will be a struggle for the Gun Club. Any help from the Airport Commission will be much appreciated. Chairman Rowe agreed to write a letter of support. Further in-kind support for the grant will be discussed.

Commissioner Rogers stated that he does not want to see barbed wire at the end of the runway. Mr. Volker responded that the fencing will be further west.

MOTION by Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Nelson to send a letter of support to the Gun Club for the DNR grant application. MOTION carried.

Mr. Kastrosky reported that the Birkie has not been helpful in working with the Gun Club in regard to parking options. The Birkie prefers to run its own program and set its own fees. When the Gun Club offered parking, eight cars used it. Direct marketing is needed to every entry skier. It is a good fundraiser, but snow removal must be done and volunteers are needed to manage parking on the day of events. He would like to proceed with plans but not spend a lot of money in fear of a Birkie cancellation this year. The Town Board is supportive of this effort.

Commissioner Fredericks asked the parking fee being charged. Mr. Kastrosky answered \$100/vehicle. The Birkie fees are higher. An initial fee of \$50/vehicle brought criticism from the Birkie that the Gun Club is jeopardizing their fundraising from parking.

Chair Rowe stated that it is mutually beneficial to both the Gun Club and the Airport Commission to work together on Birkie parking. He suggested Jay Andrews take the organizational lead.

Commissioner Thurn noted that Birkie Director Ben Popup has indicated events may be restaged over Birkie week with fewer people participating at one time.

Mr. Kastrosky invited Commissioners to the Gun Club Pig Roast on September 5, 2020. Commissioner Rasmussen will handle the raffle.

DISCUSSION OF CARES ACT \$1000 ENTITLEMENT

Chairman Rowe reported that Treasurer Kelly Rauch will email invoices and cancelled checks to Matt Messina to receive the \$1000 funding the airport is entitled to from the CARES Act. The money will be used for operations.

Commissioner Fredericks asked about the time frame for receiving reimbursements. Mr. Messina stated that the QT and pavement reimbursements will be in the next two months. Grant and state paperwork are being done for the CARES Act funding.

DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE EA STUDY

Mr. Volker reported that he has contacted neighboring property owners of the airport to lay groundwork for potential easements in the future to trim trees:

Jon and Barb McKinney who own property north of the runway, are interested in helping. There is already an avigation easement from 2008 that would have to be widened.

Steve Sponsell - 3 parcels north of McKinney's, are not very supportive but may be willing to widen the existing easement. He questioned this investment for the amount of traffic at the airport.

Up North LLC - property is on the west side of Telemark, north of the river. The airport has an easement and widening it would not be a big change.

Commissioner Thurn left the meeting at this time.

PC Rasmussen - owns property on both sides of Telemark Road at the intersection of County Highway M. He is interested in working with the airport to grant an easement if needed.

Bill Kirschling - his proper is in trust for his children. An easement would be possible.

Larry and Nancy Johnson - owner of the Nordic Antique Shop. He is not interested in granting an easement or removing trees. Commissioners are urged to talk with him further.

Panick Family - A family member used the airport and they are supportive. It would be prudent to buy a wider easement than needed to make sure trees can be cleared in the future.

Richard Titus - owns property at the south end of the runway. Displacement would be close to 600 feet. Mr. Titus is not interested in granting an easement. Further discussion is needed on how much displacement makes sense.

The east end is airport property. Just a few trees need to be removed.

Elizabeth Holland at Start Line Inn, Gun Club and Telemark own property on the west end. No trees need removal on the Holland and Gun Club properties which both have aviation easements. Owner of Telemark, Cliff Lewis, is supportive of the airport. A copy of any work done on Telemark property will be sent to Birkie Director Ben Popp, the potential buyer of Telemark.

Telemark - at the south end, has no aviation easement where trees need to be trimmed. An easement will be pursued with owner Cliff Lewis. Ben Popp has indicated there would not be a problem if the Birkie becomes the owner of the land.

In general, conversations with neighbors were receptive and congenial, and there is a good chance of cleaning up air space without a lot of problems. Neighbors have been encouraged to submit written comments to use with the Environmental Assessment. Information has been sent to pilots from the visitor log. Fifteen pilots have responded in favor of clearing the air space. Money will be needed for easements and removal of trees. Initially, entitlement funds will cover costs, but the Commission needs to plan for future maintenance.

Commissioner Nelson requested a maintenance plan to prevent a huge amount of work every 8 or 10 years.

Chair Rowe stated that the goal is a 4 degree Papi system and removal of trees 20 to 1 in an effort to make the airport as safe as possible.

DISCUSSION OF BUILDING A NEW TERMINAL BUILDING

Commissioner Rasmussen visited the new terminal at Solon Springs which is 40' x 44'. He suggested a smaller plan of 30' x 40' with two full bathrooms, pilot lounge, meeting space, kitchen and mechanical area in the basement level. The terminal would be 1265 square feet.

Information from the Wisconsin Town Association indicated a potential conflict of interest for Commissioner Rasmussen to buy the property, build a terminal and lease it back to the Commission. Further, the cost of the building would be \$175,000, and a lease would be \$1300, which the Commission could not afford.

Entitlement money can be used, but the Commission only receives \$150,000 per year and money for the next two or three years has been spoken for with projects. Entitlement money would have to be banked before the BOA could build a terminal. Estimated cost from the BOA is \$600,000.

Commissioners Thurn, Rasmussen and Fredericks will put together a list of reasons for a new terminal and what is needed in the terminal building to take to respective town boards for support and possible help with funding.

DISCUSSION OF HANGER SEPTIC AND WELL INSTALLATIONS

Commissioner Nelson reported a concern from the Reugers regarding a septic holding tank that has to be pumped every month. The Commission is asked to consider a mutual drain field that would only need to be pumped every 90 days. The Commission can apply for a low flow affidavit that would then only require inspection or pumping once

per year. This information was shared with Mr. Reuger, but they would still like consideration for a drain field. The cost of a drain field is \$10,000 to \$15, 000.

Chair Rowe stated that the Commission will continue to use holding tanks. A drain field would be something else to maintain and may be a liability.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

Public Comment

There was none.

Items for next meeting agenda:

- CARES Act Funding

- Update from BOA on mower purchase and reimbursements

- New Terminal

Set date for next meeting – September 23, 2020 - 4:30 – Meeting place to be announced

Adjournment: Chair Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.