

**CABLE UNION AIRPORT  
AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023 – 4:30 PM  
CABLE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Rowe called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Attendance:** Chairman Doug Rowe, Commissioners Ray Ebert, Joe Garceau, Jeff Hurula, Bob Rasmussen, Airport Manager Mike Nichols, Treasurer Dale Kruse; Secretary Holly Holly.

Absent: Commissioner Sue Thurn

**Guests**

Brad Volker, Cooper Engineering

Matt Messina, BOA

Matt Pobloske

Scott Biaggi

Laura Boley

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Rowe asked to add line 17 to the agenda - Birkie Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Rasmussen to approve as amended, seconded by Commissioner Hurula. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2023**

Motion by Commissioner Hurula to approve the September 18, 2023, minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Garceau. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report 09/1/23-09/30/23**

Expenditures were \$12,516.3. Receipts were \$14,225.19 (\$2541.29, 481 gallons gas, 13 fuel sales). Balance on 09/30/23 was \$109,664.22.

Cliff Lewis has made two \$500 donations to the airport and they are greatly appreciated.

Treasurer Kruse distributed a proposed 2024 budget that he and Commissioner Thurn have drafted. Town and county requests have been submitted; no responses received yet.

Motion by Commissioner Hurula to accept the treasurer's report and file it for audit, seconded by Commissioner Ebert. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Manager's Report**

Mr. Nichols reported the tractor door window was ordered incorrectly so he took the door down to be reordered, it will be ready within two weeks. There was a storm September 29, 2023, the power went out, a computer board and twenty runway lights were knocked out. Commissioner Garceau questioned if LED lights are acceptable in winter with snow build up. Mr. Volker said the FAA has approved of LEDs to be used with or without heaters.

Peter Nagle offered to take photos from the terminal as he is familiar with the history of the building. Mr. Nichols will discuss this further with Commissioner Thurn.

Gates have been installed and Commissioner Rasmussen offered to have the Town of Namakagon deliver boulders to be placed next to the gates to keep people from driving around on the grass. Rich Boley shared with Chairman Rowe that the gates swing when opened and questioned if a kickstand could be added to keep them open to avoid swinging into vehicles. Commissioners Rasmussen and Ebert thought a latch could be added to hold it open. Mr. Nichols will source a latch and get it installed.

1,300 gallons of fuel delivered at a cost of \$7,025. Fuel price is \$6.05.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Pobloske and Mr. Biaggi are the new owners of the former Telemark Golf Course, adjacent to the airport on the southern border. Mr. Pobloske addressed the commission and informed that both he and Mr. Biaggi are pilots, have owned and leased hangars, owned a flight school and are very excited about being neighbors to the airport. They are looking to incorporate the airport into their development plans. Chairman Rowe extended the commission's willingness to work together and explore potential areas of collaboration. Mr. Pobloske approved the removal of the large pine tree on the first hole of the golf course as it is an obstruction for planes landing, he requested it be cut tight to the ground. He also approved the removal of trees to the southeast side of the taxiway. Mr. Volker has roughly marked the property lines between irons. Mr. Pobloske stated clearing trees up to 20 feet of the property line is acceptable. Chairman Rowe will keep Mr. Pobloske and Mr. Biaggi informed as displacements are determined and the EA progresses.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update BOA – Matt Messina & EA Update/Hangar Expansion – Brad Volker**

EA final revisions are being worked on by BOA, DOT and Cooper Engineering in preparation to be presented to the public and FAA. Preferred alternatives will be discussed in the near future. Mr. Messina will forward new revisions to Mr. Volker by the end of the week. Chairman Rowe asked for a specific time frame for informing the public and preferred alternative. Mr. Volker stated all alternatives are similar and he is close to having the discussion. Mr. Messina would like to discuss the draft by January 1, 2024. FAA review timeline is uncertain, although they

have increased staff in environmental review and he is hopeful that the response time will be quicker than in recent months. Mr. Volker asked Mr. Messina if Cooper Engineering and the Airport could discuss alternatives parallel to FAA review.

Commissioner Garceau asked about Phase 2 and if the FAA could approve a certain block of hangars at a specific height so that when hangars are approved for building they don't have to go back to the FAA for approval. Mr. Messina stated approval letters are only good for a limited time, so a building would have to be constructed within that time frame. Mr. Pobloski commented on his intention for building a hangar on an adjacent parcel. He asked that he be included in discussions with the FAA, DOT, etc. Mr. Volker offered to provide heights.

Commissioner Garceau requested utility easements be included on the plans going forward. Currently electric to meter boards is indicated, but it is requested to include water and power from meter board to individual property by including each building pad and note "no utilities". Mr. Volker indicated this was reasonable and could be done.

Mr. Volker is aware of several contractors interested in bidding and starting work in Spring 2024.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SRE Building Update**

Mr. Volker has a proposal nearly ready for Mr. Messina after checking with the historical records site. He believes it will be a simple records search. He also has a proposal from Westland who will be helping with HVAC and mechanical details.

Chairman Rowe asked if the National Park Service would be consulted. Mr. Volker indicated it will be part of the scope of the proposal to include the easement previously provided. Preliminary designs provided to the commission were well received.

### **Storage Building Update**

Commissioner Rasmussen reported the power and garage door opener have been installed. Tractor and other equipment is now being stored in the building and it is complete.

### **Terminal Restoration**

Siding installation is complete. A big thank you to Mr. Nichols, Treasurer Kruse, Hans Rasmussen, Peter Nagle and Commissioners Rasmussen, Garceau, and Ebert for their work in completing this project. Building exterior is complete. Commissioner Rasmussen suggested the overhead power line should be removed. Commissioner Hurula will assess and remove it as long as there is no power to the line. He also offered to install the exterior outlets as his schedule permits.

### **Tree Clearing – November 6-9, 13-16th**

Commissioner Hurula reported that Town of Drummond is not able to provide a supervisor for the chipper (\$40/hr rental from the county), so he requested Town of Cable or Namakagon provide a supervisor from their road crews. Commissioner Rasmussen will check with the Town of Namakagon. Cutting priority will focus on the south end of the runway and additional areas determined by Mr. Nichols as the project progresses and it is determined what can be completed in the allotted time.

### **2024 Budget**

Discussion for November meeting based on proposal distributed at October 24, 2023, meeting.

### **Birkie Discussion**

American Birkebeiner Foundation is looking to build a biathlon course adjacent to the airport, gun club, and ABF property lines. This project is in the very early stages of development with further discussion in the upcoming months.

### **Airport Operation Ordinance**

Chairman Rowe feels the changes made were sufficient. Commissioner Ebert forwarded suggested changes to Commissioner Thurn. Ordinance will be updated and reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Question**

Commissioner Garceau asked how new events at the airport such as short take off and landing competitions are set up. Mr. Volker suggested attending the EAA Chapter meetings to discuss how other airports handle these events. The commission was in favor of exploring additional, new events.

### **Next Agenda:**

Phase 2

Budget 2024

Airport Operation Ordinance

Tree Clearing

Terminal Renovations

SRE Building Update

Future Airport Events

2024 Airport Employee Salaries – Closed Session

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 4:30 pm at the Cable United Church of Christ.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Rowe declared the meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.