

## LEMHI COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD MINUTES

September 9, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 18:03 by Board Chairman, Robert Schick. Other Board members in attendance were James Crawford, Vice Chairman, Richard Natelson, secretary, Charles LaMoure, treasurer, Ben Armstrong and Bob Deurloo.

Other people in attendance were James Carroll, superintendent, Tim Vernell and Johanna Schroeder from Gem Air, Jim Miteski and Dick Williams.

Rob asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. The motion was made by Rich and seconded by Jim. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Fuel and facilities report**

James stated that there are 9440.1 gallons of Jet A and 4126 gallons of Avgas. Last week the Airport received 6000 g of Jet A .Later this week the Airport will be receiving 7300 gallons of Avgas.

There is one runway light out and there is a light out on the main windsock. All the lights are functional on the other windsock. The people gate by McCall Air has a temporary lock installed so it will not open inadvertently. The locksmith told James that he is waiting for the correct parts to put the original lock back in.

The courtesy vans back door can now be opened, and the Board is waiting on other parts to repair the van. He stated that traffic at the Airport has diminished.

Rob send an e mail link to James about on line fuel training. Rob states that he also has intentions on doing this. It will be provided by World Fuels.

Rob instructed Jim to extend the mower Notam as well as the Airport operations Notam through the end of September.

The audience mentioned that there was a deer out on the airport property. James mentioned that there were also 2 coyotes that were reported. Rob instructed James to look for animals on the Airport grounds when he makes his morning rounds.

### **Financial report**

Charles stated the bills have been paid by the County. The largest bill was to T O Engineers for \$ 9,404.49. The yearly payment for the QT credit card machine was paid. That was \$900 and that was in the budget. The Board is staying within budget for everything except for fuel costs. But he mentioned, that the Board's fuel income is also up. The budget year also ends at the end of September and the Airport is within budget.

### **Public Input:**

Jim Miteski stated that he is concerned about the maintenance of the airport in Leadore. There was a fly-in there during the summer. Since then, the airport has not been mowed. He has been under the impression that in order to accomplish maintenance, it must come from the County level. He spoke with the County Commissioners and they stated they wished to keep that airport in good condition. They also stated that there was money available for that airport. The County Commissioners stated that if anything needs to be done it must go through the Airport Board. They stated that the Airport Board must make the decision on what needs to be done

Jim Miteski went out to the Wisdom airport and stated that it is in good shape. He spoke with a gentleman named Bob who is contracted by Beaver head County to perform the repairs. He stated that there is no problem with the budget and they spend approximately \$1500 a year. The county in Montana also takes care of the Dillon airport.

Jim was wondering with whom he needs to speak in order to get funding for the Leadore airport.

Rob stated that the Board does not respond to public comment at this meeting.

Dick Williams added on that he was there at the County Commissioners' meeting and he reiterated that the Commissioners have given the Board complete backing. It was his impression that the Commissioners were willing to spend the money. He recommended appointing a "manager" to take care of the repairs needed. He thought that Jim Miteski would fulfill the role.

Tim Vernell:

He stated that he wants to speak with the powers that be, to see if the TFR boundaries can be modified so that a missed approach can still be performed. He stated that not having IFR available at the airport is causing problems for a number of people.

Jim stated that he submitted a letter to the County Commissioners with some interaction that he had with the chairman of the Airport Board over a month ago. He stated that the interaction was very unpleasant and he wanted to make the rest of the Board aware of this. He hopes that we can have a conversation about it. Tim stated that he is asked for a meeting with Commissioners about this. They have not responded yet. The County Commissioners have seen the letter. He stated that this was concerning the flat tire that Gem Air had on the runway. He feels that there has been a lot of hostility overall. (See letter).

Rob stated that he spoke with the U.S. Forest Service about the TFR. He stated that the Forest Service tries to avoid interfering with approaches at an airport. Rob stated that the Board cannot change the TFR. Tim stated he was aware of this.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

AMCG follow-up

Rob went over the immediate recommendations: Restructuring the retail fuel pricing program: how the Board determine retail fuel prices.

Adopting parking fees: Already has been done.

The Board has already decided to have an Airport Operations and Maintenance Fee.

Rob said he would like to get together with Charles to discuss the retail fuel prices. Generally, the Board has been following 22% over Airport cost. Rob asked James for a copy of all the fuel purchases this year.

Parking and tie down fees have been discussed.

The Board also discussed access fees but the Board did not want to implement these. This is in line with other airports in the area.

Self-inspection program: The Board has a fuel farm checklist. World fuels has an online training program that will be done by both Rob and James. Other Board members can do this as well if they desire.

James already inspects other aspects of the Airport and if there is a problem, it is brought to the attention of the Chairman or the Vice Chairman.

Rob states that he will work with James to come up with a list of items that should be inspected. It might be possible, to procure a list from another airport.

Snow and ice removal plan: At this point in time removal of snow and ice from the taxiway and runway is carried out by the Lemhi County Department of Road and Bridges. The leading edge of the tractor blade will need to be replaced. It should be ordered this week.

Rob had spoken with the gentleman who purchased some of the auction equipment and he stated that he might be able to find the Airport a plow truck. Unfortunately, he was only able to find a two-wheel drive truck with plow. The Board felt that a four-wheel drive truck is a must. Discussion ensued. The Board will continue to look for a more suitable vehicle.

Intermediate Plans: Rob mentioned that Rich brought up the idea of a landing fee for large aircraft. Rich asked James if he has been keeping track of aircraft that have been landing. James stated that he hasn't seen any recently. Rich stated that he has information on landing fees for heavy aircraft. He will bring it to the next meeting.

Tim from Gem Air stated that approximately 40 percent of the aircraft will go to Gem Air for refueling.

Jo from Gem Air mentioned that on the website it still lists their number as the phone number for the Airport. She suggested that this should be changed.

Rob stated that something may need to be put in the airport rules and regulations concerning landing fees. Discussion ensued.

Charles mentioned the idea of charging companies that use the Airport to pick up guests and bring them into the back country. These companies however, are not FBO's on the field. Rich wondered how the Airport could actually track these flights. Charles was of the opinion that these operators are honest and would comply. This would be based upon the honor system. What would be charged was discussed. No conclusion was reached. Charles stated that he will see what he can find regarding this issue.

### Capital Improvement Plan

Nathan Cuvala from T O Engineers will be sending to the Board its capital improvement plan that has already been discussed and approved by the Board. Rob stated that the plan was initially to start with the equipment building and lounge. \$150,000 was allocated however prices have gone up dramatically. According to Nathan, the price of the building could be between \$400,000 and \$600,000. Nathan told Rob that amount of money may actually be available. Nathan stated that we have money from the FAA and he believes that the project can be done this coming year. Nathan would like to bid this project in April 2023. An idea up for consideration is to raise the small cement block building. The equipment building would be placed in a position that would not take up potential hanger space.

Another issue in the capital improvement plan would be to take the south road and plan on constructing small hangars in that area. Water and power would need to be moved. Nathan said the Board can use grant money for that. Discussion ensued.

The idea of putting in a new gate off Airport Road was discussed. The purpose would be to allow access to other hangars that would be constructed east of the runway. Rob stated that Nathan also sent out possible hangar locations for the area north of Gem Air. He encouraged Board members to look at this information.

Tim from Gem Air requested the Board consider a "working group" consisting of the public and possibly two Board members to discuss the capital improvement plans for the Airport. Rob stated that it might be possible but the Board cannot guarantee it.

Rob wanted to mention in regards to the Leadore airport, that if some improvements need to be done at the airport and FAA money is not used, the State will pay 60% but the County would be responsible for 40% of the bills. Jim Miteski stated that he spoke with Jennifer from the State aeronautics board and she stated that the State would be willing to help with the Leadore airport. Rob reiterated that the money would have to come out of the County budget, not the Airport Board budget.

### Auction Items;

Rob stated that the Board still has 2 pallets left of items that were from the old fuel farm. There are still some items that need to be picked up that were already paid for by credit card. Rob does not remember exactly how much money has been made by the Board from the auction items. The money will go into the Airport funds.

### New airport truck:

Rob stated that the Board did get the truck from the Department of Roads and Bridges. Unfortunately, the fuel tank that the Board has does not fit because it is a short bed truck. Rob has ordered a smaller, more modern tank. It will be installed in the back of the truck. When this truck no longer functions it will be easier to move the tank out and placing in another vehicle.

### New hangar construction:

Nate Bills is already having his hangar constructed. At this point in time, the Board does not know what is happening with Axiom. They are however, paying for the lease.

## NEW BUSINESS

### ANNUAL PARKING RATES

Rob stated that there are 2 vehicles that have been moved to long-term parking. One individual wishes to leave the vehicle there all year long. Based upon the Board's pricing scheme that would be \$5 a day. This gentleman would like the year-long parking fee to be less than what it would be if he paid \$5 a day. In short, he would like a yearly rate. The Board presently does not have one. Rob asked the Board to discuss this.

Rob did make clear to the car owners that plowing would not be provided.

Discussion ensued

Jim made the motion to have an annual fee for a light vehicle of \$500. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### WINTER PREPERATION AND PARTS

Rob already spoke with James about placing the new edge on the tractor blade. A repair part for the box plow is also necessary. He recommended that items such as tiedown chains should be removed so they do not interfere with snow removal.

Charles stated that the Airport has approximately ten thousand dollars in the maintenance fund. The parts necessary should be ordered before the beginning of the new fiscal year that begins October first.

### Closing Comments:

Bob wanted to recognize the passing of Bill Guth who died on Saturday.

He was an important part of the Airport for many years. He flew a lot into the Flying B.

Jim Mateski asked for the land lease agreement with the government for the helicopters. Rob asked for his e mail so that he could mail him a copy. Rob stated that the government is paying 250 dollars a day.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:30