

# AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Minutes

March 21, 2023 6:00pm Albert Lea Airport

#### In attendance were:

Board Members	Present	Absent
Michael Bowman	х	
Craig Ludtke	x	
Jerry Morstad	x	
Gerald Molkenthin	x	
Chuck Sandager	x	
Darren Schone		x
Mark Light	x	

#### Ex-Officos

Steven Jahnke, City Engineer/Director of Public Works Robert Rasmussen, Councilmen Jim Hanson, Airport Manager Matt Wagner, Mead & Hunt Clark Hagen, City Engineering Department

The Airport Advisory Board meeting was held at the Albert Lea Airport.

Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order.

#### 1) Approval of Board Minutes

Gerald made a motion to approve the past minutes, Craig Ludtke seconded it. The minutes were approved.

#### 2) Introduction to Mark Light and Terms

Mark Light was introduced, Mark gave a brief history of his time related to the airport. Introductions of everyone were done.

Board terms were also discussed. In 2021 the City revised Ordinance 21-060 that extended the term limit by one year, terms are now 4 years instead of 3 years. Chuck Sandager, Darren Schone, and Jerry Morstad had terms ending in 2024 but with this revision their terms now expire in 2025 (12/31/25).

#### 3) Master Plan Study

The plan has been submitted to the FAA for review, comments and approval. Mead and Hunt has indicated that there has not been a lot of movement on reviewing, that the FAA has been more focused on getting out grants. Mead & Hunt has heard nothing on progress from the FAA.

## 4) Fuel Master/Fuel System & Runway Sign Upgrades State Grant

Clark Hagen gave an update. The signs are expected to arrive at the end of March and are scheduled for installation in April. The Fuel System is 4-6 week out.

### 5) Hangar Improvements

There was a long discussion regarding the condition of the existing hangars. The Board's priorities for repairs were as follows:

- 1. Patching floor holes and getting the floor in good shape where needed
- 2. Patching holes in hangar walls
- 3. Belting the bottoms of the doors on the hangars that do not have a good seal
- 4. Upgrades/Improvements to the openers and doors

Clark Hagen went through options to upgrade the hangars with the \$100,000 state grant. The repairs will focus on replacing the overhead doors and repairs to the floors, starting with the hangars that are in the worst shape. The floor repairs will vary from minor repairs that involve small fills/patching to more extensive repairs that involve removing a section of the floor and re-pouring. The \$100,000 state grant will not cover the costs to repair all the hangars, it is anticipated that the work will be done in years/phases, once this years project is completed the City will report the repairs and apply for another grant for the following year until all hangars have been repaired. Roof repairs will also be evaluated next year.

Additional repairs this year will include:

- 1. Replacing the rubber bottoms to the overhead doors. This will be completed by Interstate Junction when they complete the annual maintenance/repairs (late summer).
- 2. The hangars that are heaving in the middle door latch will be repaired by the Street Department this summer.

A discussion about construction of new t-hangars was held. T-hangars are not eligible for federal funds, however just recently the FAA has revised those terms, if all runway needs have been met t-hangars could be eligible for federal funds. Unfortunately, the cost of new construction is extremely high and a large demand would need to be present before this option could be evaluated, rent for the hangars would be increased considerably as well. Currently all t-hangars are full but there is no waiting list of tenants wanting a hangar.

De-icing was also discussed. Steve Jahnke and Jim Hanson did contact surrounding areas to discuss what methods are used at their facilities for de-icing around the hangars. Unfortunately, no answers were provided, no other facilities use salt or other chemicals for ice removal around the hangars due to the corrosive side-effects of those substances. The above repairs should help some with the ice issues, and airport maintenance will continue to address the ice issues as best as possible, in a timely manner.

### 6) Airport Consultant Selection

The City is required to have an aviation consultant for the airport. The FAA requires this for airports that use federal funds. This process involves sending out Requests for Proposals to several consultant firms requesting a bid for their services as the airport's aviation consultant. This will take place in April or May of this year. The board will be involved with the interviews of the potential consultants, Craig Ludkte and Michael Bowman volunteered to be a part of the interview panel. This normally occurs every five years.

#### 7) New Business

#### **AWOS Discussion**

Matt Wagner gave the board an update on the AWOS. The current AWOS does not meet FAA standards, it's too close to the trees west of the gravel pit. To relocate the current system or upgrade the system and relocate will need to be evaluated. This will require a planning phase, design phase and construction phase. The area north of the current location is the optimal location.

Jim Hanson discussed his concerns with the relocation, one being the need for electricity to the new location. The concerns will be incorporated as the project progresses.

#### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00pm at the airport.

Craig Ludkte made a motion to adjourn, Mark Light seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Jahnke

Public Works Director

Approved:

Craig Ludtke

Airport Advisory Board Secretary

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