

In Regular Session Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 5:15 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers, 323 W. Michigan Ave. Marshall, MI. Chairperson Tom Woods called the Marshall Airport Board meeting to order.

Present: Jase Bolger, Charles Dobbins, Mike Hindenach, Mike Olson, and Tom Woods
Absent: Jeff Begg, Bill Ross, Ron Goodwin, Council Liaison
Others present: Mitch Price, Airport Manager

Approval of Agenda

Add under New Business: Albion Equestrian Center; Fuel Service, and Used Fuel Heater and Phone System - by consensus, approved on a voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bolger, supported by Hindenach to approve the November 14, 2006 minutes as submitted: approved on a voice vote, motion carried.

Treasurers Report

None submitted. Tracy Hovarter, Interim Finance Director, will be invited to attend the March meeting for an update and receive Board input on the 2007-2008 budget.

Airport Managers Report

The Airport Manager reported:

Great Lakes Aviation Services as new FBO

- * The meeting on February 9 to discuss Great Lakes Aviation Systems (GLAS) interest in becoming the new FBO, went well.
- * GLAS comes to the City with experience; they have aircraft, offer a flight school and repair services at their Kalamazoo location.
- * They wish to maintain fuel sales (the City is doing this currently), but does not have plans to immediately replace the existing fuel system to an automated system.

Other

- * There are still some unresolved contractual issues with Eric Metzger (Metzger's Aviation), the former FBO.
- * The City has stepped up to keep Brooks Field open, though there is no FBO on site.
- * There was discussion on the new casino coming to Emmett Twp and Brooks Field runway extension.

November MAP Meeting

- * On track for runway rehabilitation project (waiting for the President to sign the Transportation Act) with a possible start date sometime after Labor Day.
- * There was discussion regarding the Charlotte runway extension and possible effect on Brooks Field. Is there a possibility of partnering? The Airport Manager was requested to contact Mead & Hunt for more information.

Old Business

None

New Business

Albion College Equestrian Center Expansion

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Member Dobbins commented on the Center in Albion growing to a world-class equestrian show center and presented an article to the Board. The article references the Battle Creek as the closest airport; we anticipate that 95% of those flying in for shows could land at Brooks Field – even closer than Battle Creek – a possible benefit for the Center. We need to make our interest known to the Center; it was suggested the Airport Manager and Member Olson, along with the Chamber, make a presentation to the Center.

Fuel Service at Brooks Field

Steve Buller of Battle Creek (BFAA member) spoke to the Board regarding the possibility of taking over the gas sales; he would pay for new automated pumps to provide 24-hour fuel service at Brooks Field; he is certain this service would bring in more people to the airport. The goal is to grow Brooks Field. However, if GLAS is willing to provide, he would withdraw his offer.

Great Lakes Aviation Services

Barry Smith, Great Lakes Aviation Services (GLAS), commented:

- * This is GLAS's second year in business; they provide fuel sales, flight training and maintenance.
- * The contractual obligations of the former FBO must be completed before GLAS formally proposes to become the new FBO. Highlights of their proposal -
 - o They keep fuel sales as part of the operation and would like to put in self-serve card reader system, but this would probably not happen immediately; due to staffing, etc.
 - o They would offer a flight school and add planes as needed
 - o They would provide general FBO services
 - o They are willing to work with the other operations at Brooks Field; the EAA, SkyDive, MI and BFAA.
 - o They will provide a business plan
- * Their goal is to run the operation at a profit.
- * They are willing to work out specific contract details with City administration.

Existing Phone System and Used Fuel Heater owned by Metzger Aviation

- * Neither the City nor GLAS (should they become FBO) are interested in the phone system or used fuel heater system.
- * The used fuel heaters will be removed and new hanging gas heaters will be installed.

Public Comment

Rob Williams, BFAA

- * Currently, there is a lot of interest in the airport; as indicated at the February 9, 2007 meeting where there was a very good turnout.
- * BFAA wants to work with the new FBO.

Lynn Humphries, SkyDive, MI

- * Hopes to avoid issues such as those with the previous FBO and also wants to work with the new FBO to achieve growth for Brooks Field.

Member Comment

Member Olson thanked the Airport Manager for all his work at the airport.

Next Meeting Date

March 13, 2007 in Council Chambers

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cris Roberts