

Meeting Minutes
Madison County Airport Board
Ennis Big Sky Airport
Ennis, MT

September 14, 2020

Attendees: Tom Miller, John Hauck, Jim Frey, and Tyler Holland. Peter Fitzgerald participated via phone.

Absentees: Scott Payne

Commissioners: Ron Nye, Jim Hart

Secretary: Jani Flinn

Visitors: Will Senecal, Robert Peccia & Associates (Lance Bowser participated via phone); Troy Hunter, Choice Aviation, Chris Murphy, realtor, Verne Brown and Sue Kinn, property owner, Eli Thompson, Commissioner Candidate, Breon Roberson, citizen, Bruce Seiler, homeowner, and Mr. & Mrs. Stamsta, property owners.

Board Chairman, Tom Miller, called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Beau Bradley moved to approve the 8/10/20 meeting minutes as submitted. John Hauck seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Report Twin Bridges Airport: Traffic is steady and the shop and hangars are busy. Firefighting personnel and helicopters are on site.

Report Ennis Big Sky Airport: See attached report from Choice Aviation. Troy reported they are still fielding calls on the airport construction project. AWOS is now commissioned and a new monitor installed. The broom truck is back from the shop, snow plow is now stored in the SRE building, and hydraulic and coolant leaks are being repaired. New Instrument approach is scheduled for July, 2021. FBO Report shows no activity due to airport shutdown during construction, although they have been fielding a lot of calls and interest for hangars.

Robert Peccia & Associates Project Updates: The Board reviewed the attached RPA Airport Board Meeting Notes. Topics discussed included:

- **AIP 21-2020 and AIP 22-2020:** Construction is on a tight schedule for meeting the 28th completion date. Northwestern Energy will be there this week to begin trenching under the runway. They will bore & run 3 new lines and leave the three existing in place.
- **Land Acquisition:** Still working on reimbursement; should have completed within thirty days.
- **Water System PER:** Lance briefly reviewed the PER document and discussed fire protection, water needs, storage capacity, and potential public water supply. This project will not be FAA funded. The Board agreed to review in more detail and discuss again in the next couple of months.
- **Twin Bridges:** 012-2017 Master Plan was sent to the FAA for review. Airport Layout Plan was also sent to FAA for review. FAA has approved request to use RVA, and we will apply to change the name to Ruby Valley Airfield, hopefully by year-end.

Aviation Ground Lease, Parcel C-6, cancel Spencer and approve new: The Board reviewed and discussed a new Aviation Hangar Lease for Dr. M. Doody, for the hangar he is purchasing from Spencer. Beau Bradley moved to approve and accept the new Aviation Ground Lease and associated documents as submitted. John Hauck seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Tall Tower Review, Big Sky: The Board discussed a Tall Tower proposal for a leased parcel at Yellowstone Mountain Club Subdivision in Big Sky. Beau Bradley moved to respond with no objections and no issues from the Airport Board. Peter Fitzgerald seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Verne Brown: Through the Fence Access: Verne and a group of concerned homeowners expressed their concerns about the through the fence access, gate sizes, paving, and steep slope access. Bruce Seiler, David & Amber Stamsta, Breon Roberson, Eli Thompson, Chris Murphy, and Verne Brown & Sue Kinn all participated in this discussion. Lance explained the Master Planning efforts over the last five to six years, the Airport Layout Plan, Public Meetings, and public input. The Airport is subject to FAA regulations regarding Through the Fence Access, and Madison County cannot pay for any associated costs on private land. After much discussion, it was agreed that Lance will be available to meet with any concerned property owners the following week when he is at the airport to come up with suggestions for the HOA and individual property owners to consider.

Air-medical Training Aviation Facility in Twin Bridges: Commissioner Ron Nye discussed an inquiry he has received from American Transportation Groups, LLC. They have reached out to the State about purchasing state land adjacent to the Twin Bridges Airport, and Lance has given us his insight on FAA requirements for adjacent land. The Board encouraged further investigation and asked Ron to keep them informed.

Grand Opening, Ennis Airport: The contractor's schedule completion date is still September 28th. With other miscellaneous items that will need to be completed, the Board discussed reasonable dates for the grand opening. John Hauck moved to schedule the grand opening event for Saturday, October 17, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. Beau Bradley seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Commissioner Hart volunteered to email interested government officials.

Other Business: Lance mentioned that he received a question on possible cross-wind landing commissioning at the Ennis Airport. He explained that we do not have the property for that right now, but it could be considered as one of our next planning issues.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:05 p.m.

Tom Miller, Chairman

Minutes prepared by Jani Flinn, Airport Board Secretary

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 5, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Twin Bridges Airport.