

Meeting Minutes
Madison County Airport Board
Ennis Big Sky Airport
Ennis, MT
May 18, 2020

Attendees: Tom Miller, Beau Bradley, Jim Frey, and John Hauck, Tyler Holland and Scott Payne

Absentees: Peter Fitzgerald

Commissioners: Jim Hart

Secretary: Jani Flinn

Visitors: Lance Bowser and Will Senecal, Robert Peccia & Associates; Troy Hunter and Joel Simmons, Choice Aviation

Board Chairman, Tom Miller, called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Jim Frey moved to approve the 4/13/20 meeting minutes as submitted. John Hauck seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Report Twin Bridges Airport: Beau reported that traffic is slow for Twin Bridges. They currently have no hangars available.

Report Ennis Big Sky Airport: See attached report from Choice Aviation. Troy reported that John Padilla is asking for through the fence access. Troy will give him the documents to review and sign, and let him know the planned gate size will be same as the existing. Discussion included how to notify existing homeowners that may be interested in the through the fence option, and clarify gate dimensions. Troy will draft a letter to send to owners with details, from the Airport Board. The HOA may be able to help us. Also, Troy currently has two hangar leases pending, Roberson and Shoeneman. FBO Report includes 35 operations, 0 rental cars, 0 hotel rooms, and 0 catering orders, with 673 gallons of jet fuel used and 118.5 gallons of Avgas.

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

- **AIP 020-2018: SRE/ARFF Building.** AV Construction has delays with electrical material deliveries and plumbing contractor. Final exterior grading will wait until runway project is done.
- **Land Acquisition:** State Easement appraisal was high; negotiating a refund if possible. The Loughorn Ranch Easement is still in coordination with Montana Land Reliance for Conservation Easement requirements and there is a question on the gravel. This item is on the Commissioners Agenda for discussion.
- **AIP 21-2020 and AIP 22-2020:** SK Construction/Riverside has requested an extension on the runway closure from 9/18/20 to 9/28/20 due to delays in AIP 22-2020 grant award. John Hauck moved to grant the extension for runway closure until 9/28/20. Jim Frey seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. Lance is meeting with Northwestern Energy regarding trenching for power, fencing will begin the end of May, and RPA will be adding another inspector next week.
- **CARES Act funding:** Grant offers received for both airports. \$30,000 for Ennis and \$20,000 for Twin.

- **SK Construction cost-share** on 6” water well: SK would like to share the cost with Madison County to reimburse them for water used during the construction project. After discussion, John Hauck moved to as SK construction to reimburse Madison County \$30,000 for shared cost of the existing well during construction. Scott Payne seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.
- **Twin Bridges:** 012-2017 Master Plan ready to send to FAA for review. AWOS final report submitted and awaiting FAA concurrence before final reimbursement. FAA has turned down our request to use the 3-letter identifier, TWN. Twin provides all the services required and qualifies for this identifier. Lance suggested getting support from the Commissioners to write their Congressmen and protest this decision, and will send details to the Commissioners for that request.

Update on Well at Ennis Airport: Scott Payne discussed the need to apply for a groundwater use permit from DNRC now that the 6” well is complete and in use. Scott will coordinate with Commissioner Jim Hart to complete the application at 35 gallons per minute.

Fire Suppression Well: The Board of Commissioners reviewed the recommendation to drill a 12” well at the Ennis Airport and would like more information before accepting the recommendation. Lance recommended getting a cost estimate and Preliminary Engineering Report before proceeding. After discussion, John Hauck moved to get a quote, or Task Order, from Robert Peccia & Associates to provide specifics on location, design, and procurement on drilling a 12” well. Scott Payne seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Other Business:

- The Board agreed that the Grand Opening event at the Ennis Airport following completion of construction this fall will remain on hold for now.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:18 p.m.

Tom Miller, Chairman

Minutes prepared by Jani Flinn, Airport Board Secretary

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Twin Bridges Airport.