

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AVIATION COMMITTEE

Date: April 5, 2023
Time: 8:00 am (in person and virtual)
Present: Koby Schellenger, Betsy Ellenberger, Jeffrey Beem, Maribeth Gabert
Virtual: Justin Rust, Basler Flight Service
Also Present: Jim Schell, Airport Director; Cameron Hallock, Deputy Airport Director; Fred Stadler, tenant; Tom Gabert, tenant; Wayne Daniels, tenant; Chip Dyni, ATC; Art Rathjen, GO-EDC; Terry Rushing; Wings As Eagles

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

1. **Approve Minutes of March 1, 2023:** Supv. Ellenberger moved to approve the minutes from March 1, 2023, seconded by Supv. Beem. Motion carried 4/0
2. **Public Comment on agenda items or any item under the jurisdiction of this committee:** None
3. **Airport Director's Report:**
 - a) *East GA Hangar Project Update:* Mr. Schell advised that as far as the construction goes the civil contractor has demolished the five previous structures on the construction site. They are currently working on the footing and foundation for the new hangars that will be going in there. This week they have worked on pulverizing the old pavement that was over there and they have started laying the underground utilities and sanitary sewer pipe. We are anticipating for Cardinal, the building constructor, to be able to start around May 1st, as long as our civil contractor stays on schedule. Mr. Schell also included a hangar leasing update advising that an email was sent out to all existing tenants giving them first opportunity to advise of their interest in leasing one of our new hangars. At this point, there are sixteen (16) current tenants interested. There was a blind drawing done to determine the order of choice for selecting their new hangar unit. We are in the process of contacting those tenants in the order drawn and our goal is to have all of the new hangars assigned by the end of this month. In May we will start securing deposits for the hangars, and then begin the leasing process.
 - b) *Chamber Business Expo Recap:* On March 30th, Mr. Schell, Mr. Hallock and Kim Maki participated in this year's Business Expo. The theme of the expo was "Game Show", so we went with *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader*. We had Kim's daughter, Alysa, who is a true 5th grader for our contestants to go up against. Mr. Schell was happy to report that our 5th grader had twenty-six (26) wins, three (3) losses and eight or nine ties. Anybody who did not beat the 5th grader had a polaroid picture taken and their picture was placed on a board that said, "I am Smart, but NOT Smarter Than a 5th Grader". We had a lot of fun with it. Some people declined their Polaroids, and that was OK. Some of our tenants contributed prizes for our drawing, we had some great community engagement and questions about our new hangar project. It was a successful event.
4. **Deputy Director's Report:**
 - a) *Internship Update:* Mr. Hallock advised that we did make an offer to Nicoletta Salvatore. She was selected after reviewing twenty-two (22) applicants and conducting eight (8) interviews. Resumes were received from all over the country. There were none from Wisconsin. We were looking for a senior or recently graduated from an aviation college with a degree in Aviation Management. Nicoletta is from the Chicago area and is a senior at Lewis University and is currently an intern at the Salt Lake City International Airport. Her

passion is in GA airports, and she is very excited to join us here at the end of May. This is a summer internship anticipated to conclude at the end of August.

- b) *NIFA Safecon Update*: Mr. Hallock reminded what this event is. This is about thirty (30) colleges that are aviation flight programs competing in a flight competition. There are ground skills that they demonstrate and flying skills such as short field landings, spot landing, message drop, and navigation competition to see who can most accurately navigate their airplane. The informal practice starts at the end of this month. The schools arrive early to start practicing. May 4th is the official first day of sanctioned practice and May 8th through May 13th is the actual competition. We anticipate the airport being very busy. The busiest during practice at the end of this month and then the competition itself. There will be four hundred and fifty (450) students and about fifty (50) coaches that are coming with them plus the volunteers that run the event and judge the event. Runway 18/36 is still the runway that will be used for the competition. If the winds don't support that runway, they won't be flying that day. This was done to keep runway 9/27 open for the normal traffic we have so our normal arrivals and departures aren't waiting in a long line. We're excited to be hosting this event here. Mr. Stadler asked if there is going to be a schedule for our current tenants to reference and know what is going on at the airport. Mr. Schell advised that we will send out a schedule to our tenant email list in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Dyni spoke on behalf of the tower and believes that our normal traffic should be able to get in and out without too much of a wait.

5. **Discuss & Approve renewal of Lease Agreement between Winnebago County and Aviation Services, LLC**: Aviation Services is a flight training provider that has been a Wittman Airport hangar tenant for over thirty (30) years. They occupy Hangar 7 and wish to renew their lease for another year. Hangar 7 is 2,854 square feet and Aviation Services will also continue to lease 2,400 square feet of adjacent apron space. The CPI increase from last year for this hangar is 4.6%. The apron space is \$.29 per square foot per year per our ordinance. This means that the cost per month is \$628.23 (hangar) + \$58.00 (apron) = \$686.23 per month for a term of May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024. Supv. Ellenberger made a motion to approve renewal of lease agreement between Winnebago County and Aviation Services, LLC. This motion was seconded by Supv. Beem. Motion carried 4/0.

Mr. Schell wanted to comment on something that is not on the agenda. Mr. Schell advised that Mr. Hallock had applied for a \$200,000 grant through the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law that had set aside funds specifically for federally operated air traffic control towers. Mr. Hallock did this on behalf of the Air Traffic Control Tower. Replacement of the tower's chiller has already been budgeted for 2023; however, a chiller was part of the application for this grant along with a number of other upgrades. We were awarded this grant last week. Since this was not included in our petition from last year, we will be holding another brief public hearing to get input from the public on upgrading the control tower. This meeting is scheduled to take place on April 25th at 3:00 pm in the airports large conference room. This is not official yet. Once Mr. Hallock has made all the appropriate contacts, he will advise of the set date and time of this hearing.

6. **Operations & Maintenance Report**: Mr. Stuker was excused from this meeting and Mr. Hallock spoke on his behalf. The Operations and Maintenance crew have started to put away the snow equipment and are working on getting the mowing equipment up and running. It is also that time of year for the annual hangar inspections. An email will be going out to our tenants advising of this starting to take place.

7. **EAA Report:** None
8. **Chairman's Report:** Supv. Gabert had spoken to a recent county board supervisor that had taken a tour of our airport and spoke very highly about the various businesses on the airport grounds. Supv. Gabert also advised that in the Senate there's a bill that was brought forward by Senator Tammy Baldwin to reinstate the GI Bill for veterans who leave the military and would like to learn how to fly. This would help subsidize the cost for those interested.
9. **Committee Member Statements/Suggestions/Items for Future Agenda:** None
10. **Set Next Meeting Date:** May 3, 2023
11. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Supv. Ellenberger , seconded by Supv. Schellenger. Motion carried 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 08:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Maki
Administrative Associate
Wittman Regional Airport