

City of Mt. Pleasant
Airport Advisory Board
Thursday, November 13, 2014
Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
Present: Glen Irwin, Cathy Tilmann, Donna Kriss, and Mark Drumheller
Absent: Jerry Elliot
Staff Present: John Benzinger and John Zang
- II. Proclamations and Presentations
None
- III. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Tilmann, support by Drumheller to accept as written.
Motion passed.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes
Motion by Irwin, support by Tilmann to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2014 meeting.
Motion passed.
- V. Public Comment on Agenda Items
None
- VI. Airport Manager's Report
In October there were six corporate jets, 18 other jets, 41 transients, and 4 helicopters.

John Benzinger requested that the new lights be adjusted out three degrees to light up the ramp more. As it is now, when a jet is on the ramp, it is very dark. John Zang said he had talked with Bill Brickner, who thought they did not need to be adjusted. John Benzinger stated that Mike Verleger, Medler Electric, said that they can and should be adjusted. Zang said that a meeting of the minds needs to occur with Verleger, Brickner, and Benzinger, and he will facilitate that.

Benzinger said the Lear owners are discussing the possibility of basing their jet out of Alma. A discussion ensued regarding options to keep them here. Their rent here is about \$500/month and about \$40,000 in fuel sales a year.
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Hay Baling / Grass Cutting
The contract did not work well this year. The cutter took only what he wanted, and did not satisfactorily meet the needs of the airport. Zang stated that a letter of non-compliance would be sent to the current contact holder.
 - B. Skydivers' Contract

Zang shared a letter from Central Michigan Skydivers, dated November 1, 2014, stating that “After 18 years of operation, Central Michigan Skydivers has closed for business”, signed by owner, Scott Schlosser. The address for Central Michigan Skydivers is P.O. Box 696, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0696. Benzinger indicated that Scott has sold his airplane, and his equipment is up for sale.

C. Term Expiration

Jerry Elliot’s board seat discussion included names of possible individuals who would be a good fit for the City and the board.

D. Call-Out Fees

Chris Coale does not get a call-out fee. When he works, he gets hour for hour compensation.

E. Lights

Light placement was discussed along with the ability of getting a scissor lift to adjust the lights.

VIII. New Business
None

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda and Agenda Items

1. The airport has obtained a vehicle with a plow. Weight needs to be added to the back of the pickup truck.
2. There will be an Airport Conference on February 18 – 19, 2015.
3. Contracts for John Benzinger and Chris Coale must be kept at 28 hours or less a week. Zang reported that John has averaged over the 28-hour limit for the entire year. A discussion occurred regarding limiting the airport’s hours of operation, but by using the next door vendor’s contract hours and Chris Coale’s hours, this can be averted. These must be combined for the airport to operate most effectively. There was a long discussion about the City-employee responsibility and insurance if more than 30 hours are worked per week. Benzinger stated he spoke with his insurance provider for the federal government and an attorney regarding the issue, and he cannot be forced to take the City’s insurance under the Affordable Health Care Act; availability of insurance to him would not cause him to lose coverage from his retirement insurance.

X. Announcements on Airport Related Issues and Concerns
None

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Irwin, support by Tilmann to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.
Motion passed.