



Transportation and Airport Committee Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2009 – 09:00 a.m.
Gaylord Regional Airport 1100 Aero Drive
P.O. Box 1396 Gaylord, MI 49734

MINUTES

Chairman Liss called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m.

Roll call – Present: Paul Liss, Ken Glasser, Robert Harkness,

Others present: John Burt, Matt Barresi, Theron Higgins, Erma Backenstose, Mike Deerfield, Jason Clark, Charles Jylha, Randy Bricker, Ron Dale

Approval of Minutes

Deerfield addressed the minutes of June 11th and questioned a reference regarding the role of the Airport Advisory as to whether it should report to the Transportation Committee or not. After lengthy discussion Motion by Commissioner Glasser to strike the last sentence of Item B paragraph 2 and “approve the minutes of June 11, 2009.” Motion Carried.

Director’s Report

A. Airport Manager’s Report

1. Airport Financial Report

Barresi presented his monthly financial reports to the Committee. Motion by Commissioner Glasser to accept the financial report. Motion Carried.

2. Airport Conference Room

Barresi informed the committee that he was asked whether the airport would be dedicating the conference room in the new building to Mr. Conrad A. Schaffer since the conference room in the old building had been dedicated to him. Commissioner Glasser asked Barresi to research the background on the recipient and report back to the committee.

3. Island Air - Air Tours

Barresi briefed the committee that the \$10 Air Tours the airport organized with Island Air was scheduled for the 18th of July (Last day of Alpenfest). Barresi stated that more advertising was done this time and that souvenirs were purchased for visitors to the airport. The ultimate goal for the tours is to increase Gaylord Regional Airports reportable passenger numbers to MDOT at the end of the year and make ourselves eligible for increased state funding. Additionally the event brings visitors and residents to the airport and fosters the partnership with Island Airways.

4. SRE Building

Mr. Jylha from (URS) presented the first preliminary plan of a potential SRE building concept. Discussion centered on cost, dimensions and materials. Bricker asked about the cost difference between wood and steel construction. Clark agreed that the life of steel is considerably longer, but the cost is also significantly higher. The cost of steel can be 50% to 100% higher than the cost of wood. Clark stated that we can ask for discretionary funds to add to the project and we would know within the next two months if MDOT approves them. Mr. Burt was asked to form a committee to determine the size/details of the SRE Building and to report back to the Committee. Mr. Burt stated he would have Barresi, Bricker, Deerfield, and Ratcliffe meet to discuss the building. Motion by Commissioner Harkness to proceed with developing a plan for an SRE building utilizing additional discretionary funding from MDOT but to also develop a back-up plan for an SRE building without discretionary funding. Motion Carried

5. Committee Discussion

The Committee discussed the need for the Airport Advisory Committee and the Airport Director to discuss any issues thoroughly prior to making any recommendations. Barresi mentioned that the Airport Director needs the input of the AAC to ensure that he does not get tunnel vision when making decisions for the Airport. John Burt discussed the importance of having the Airport Director, since he was hired to operate the Airport, to be comfortable with any decisions voted on by the Transportation Committee.

B. Bus Manager's Report

1. Finance report

Higgins presented committee with a year to date Quick books balance sheet and profit and loss report. Motion by Ken Glasser to accept report. All in favor. Motion approved

2. Future Bus information

Mechanics briefing Higgins introduced Ronald Dale, Lead Mechanic to discuss issues pertaining to the future of diesel bus engines meeting emissions standards and how that will affect our purchasing. GM is going to use a Urea based injection system which will require shop ventilation. All GM medium duty engines will be designed this way. There are many down sides such as weather temps and costs to vent the garage etc. International has developed a highly secret engine that will cost more to purchase, but doesn't have the urea injection issues and extra maintenance involved. Ronald Dale also discussed a new procedure developed here at OCBS to test the weight lifting capacity of our wheel chair lifts. There is no state requirement to do this, but we are going a step above and doing weight test certification semi-annually when we perform our semi-annual required inspections of the buses.

3. State Formula

Higgins briefed the committee that the state increased the formula from FY08 due to extra funding left over and the County bus will receive an additional \$93,452.00 re-distribution reimbursement. This money was discussed as far as what to do with it, and it was decided that due to unforeseen expenses we will incur with the change of diesel engines, and venting needed in the garage, we will hold the money and use it at the appropriate time, once ventilation requirements are known.

4. Contract Increases

Higgins discussed certain contract increases for the coming fiscal year and informed the board he will have dollar amounts and increases on paper at next month's meeting.

5. M-TEC

Jack Thompson and Higgins have been working on getting transportation set up from Cheboygan to the M-TEC. They are working with Straits Regional Ride and our Bus system to try and accommodate a daily trip of students to the M-TEC. It will be good for all involved.

6. Seniors

Higgins mentioned working with Dona Wishart to start a Transit committee under the "Communities for a lifetime Committee" to tackle issues pertaining to seniors who arrive at the hospital via ambulance and are released with no way to get home. Theron is working with Chippewa Cab to see if they can handle that occasional request. There will be more to come on this issue at next month's meeting.

7. Passengers/Saver Medical Conditions

Higgins mentioned that the bus system in coordination with Mr. Burt, MMRMA, and our retained Attorney's are developing a policy concerning what our limits are when dealing with passengers with severe medical conditions, and how much care we provide based on our liability, and qualifications, and conforming to all policies dealing with public transportation.

8. Stimulus Package

Higgins informed the committee that Phase II of the Federal Stimulus package is in deadlock at the state level and funding should be released sometime this summer.

9. Order of the Arrow

Higgins mentioned to the committee that the National Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scout affiliate, requested the use of one of our buses and drivers to take them on a trip to Grand Rapids for an annual conference. Theron mentioned that the driver who works with this group also drives bus for the OCBS, and would drive as a volunteer, they would pay for all the fuel, and have their own insurance rider policy to cover the entire trip. Commissioner Harkness said he would like to see if our MMRMA insurance would even cover something like this, and Mr. Burt said he would check with them. Approval would be based on liability and insurance coverage.

The next meeting date will be on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 9:00 am in the airport conference room .

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Liss at 11:25a.m.