

June 26, 2017

Airport Committee Meeting

Village of Grantsburg

The Airport Committee met on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the village office at 316 S. Brad Street, Grantsburg WI.

Present: Village President Larry Ebersold, Trustees Greg Peer and Caylin Muehlberg. Also present: Village Treasurer Sheila Meyer, Jerry Boyd, Gregg Westigard of the Inter-County Leader.

President Ebersold called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked for comments from the audience. Jerry Boyd stated that he has taken 2 surveys in the past and acquired over 50 signatures of Village residents that were opposed to taking federal and/or state funding for airport improvements. Jerry's idea for the airport included turning it into housing lots, even offering lots for free provided a house was built on the lot that would bring tax dollars to the Village. He stated that he is concerned about obligating the Village taxpayers to keeping the airport open for 20 years if the federal and/or state money were taken. He was unaware of the fact that the 95% funding (or a pro-rated share) would have to be repaid by the Village if the airport were to close before the 20-year period. He asked the process for letting people know about this prior to the Village Board voting and asked if a referendum was possible. Some of his other points were: most of the hangar owners & pilots live outside of the Village, the sign-up sheets show very little activity in the last 4-5 years, Village taxpayers also contribute to the Burnett County airport and no current Village businesses are using the airport.

Muehlberg informed the committee that North Memorial's helicopter has landed at the Grantsburg Airport and the airport is the only place they can land if there is bad weather so they have to depend on their instruments to guide them to a landing.

Ebersold reminded Boyd that there hasn't been a new home built in the Village since the last Habitat for Humanity house several years ago.

The committee discussed the need to have an "iron clad" agreement with an Association or an LLC instead of individual agreements with each hangar owner or pilot. They also need some solid estimates for the cost of a new runway and for installing fuel at the airport.

If the committee does not feel ready to commit to using the federal/state funds before the 2014 appropriation has to be obligated in September, Muehlberg felt the \$150,000 should be loaned to another airport so the Village would have the option to ask for it back in the future.

Ebersold reported that the mechanic will not be coming to the airport.

Motion by Peer, second by Muehlberg to recommend to the Village Board that the Village get solid estimates for a new runway and for installing fuel at the airport and then investigate the possibility of going forward with a public hearing or referendum after seeing the dollar amounts. Carried.

Meyer (with Bjorklund) was instructed to send an email to Matt Messina, WI Bureau of Aeronautics, asking him to provide solid estimates for a new runway and for installing a fuel system at the airport. The committee would also like to know if income derived from the fuel sales could be used to pay off the 5% obligation and if the existing Airport Layout Plan (ALP) can be used or if it would have to be updated and if so, what would the cost of the update be?

Another Airport Committee meeting was set for Monday, July 10th at 10:00 a.m. at the Village Office. Matt Messina and all of the hangar owners and pilots should be invited to attend. The clerk is to prepare a detailed list of what steps need to be done for the federal and/or state money to be requested. The existing ALP and a list of the assurances should also be provided before the next meeting.

Muehlberg made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m., second by Peer. Carried.

Sheila Meyer,

Treasurer/Deputy Clerk