

**Gogebic-Iron County Airport
Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Gogebic-Iron County Airport
E5560 Airport Rd.
Ironwood, MI 49938

May 10, 2021
10:00 A.M.

**Teleconference Provided
906-667-1100, Dial ext. 300**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by Mr. Hanson.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: (5) Mr. Byrns-Phone, Mr. Lorenson-Phone, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
Absent: (0) None
Others Present: Mike Harma, Kristi Freeman, Tom LaVenture, Joseph Pinardi, Jamey Francis, Tanner Hiller, Kathy Swarts, Bill Wagner, Ray Brown, Mike Brown, Tom Yon, Jackie Miklesh, Matt Gunia, Scott Voit

Approval of the Minutes

1. April 12, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Byrns and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Lorenson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented along with one addition by Mr. Siirila to be presented under Other Matters.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Citizens Wishing to Address the Airport Board on Agenda Items (5 Minute Limit)

Members of the public attended to discuss travel experiences from the January 22, 2021 wheel incident in ORD and the door incident in MSP on May 5, 2021 recounting their experiences and displeasure with the customer service, thereafter. Iron County Board supervisors were also in attendance to express resident complaints to end service with Boutique Air.

Appearances

1. Tom Warren – Boutique Air, VP of Business Development

Mr. Simpson, CEO and Founder of Boutique Air and Mr. Warren were in attendance to discuss the airline's performance and the baggage door incident. Mr. Simpson emphasized the airline's job is to provide reliable, on time service without incident. In the case of the door incident, the door was still attached to the plane and not removed. The pilots did not complete their preflight checklist and therefor, were terminated from Boutique Air. Mr. Simpson referenced the demands on the pilots due to a current shortage presented by the challenges of COVID. Mr. Warren and Mr. Simpson offered to compensate passengers for issues during their travel experience. All board members addressed issues regarding customer service, handling of the door incident, pilot turn over, the spare plane issue and how to proceed. Mr. Hanson thanked Boutique Air for attending and stated the Board will discuss further under Other Matters.

New Business

1. Mead & Hunt Professional Engineering Contract – Midfield Taxiway A Rehabilitation & Lighting Reconstruction

Mr. Harma advised that the Engineering Contract with Mead & Hunt for the center section blacktopping in 2022 will need approval to forward on to Gogebic County once approved by MDOT. **A motion** was made by Mr. Snyder, supported by Mr. Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve forwarding the engineering design contract with Mead & Hunt for Midfield Taxiway A Rehabilitation and Lighting Reconstruction for signature by the Gogebic County Board Chairman.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Old Business

1. Hangar Construction

Mead & Hunt is progressing on the General Aviation terminal study. Mr. Harma inquired to a renaissance zone regarding the high rate of personal property tax for prospective hangar owners.

Manager's Report

1. Mr. Harma noted there will be an FAA annual inspection in June.
2. Mr. Harma notified that Mr. Suvanto completed his forty-hour ARFF course and all the linemen crew recently completed their recurrent ARFF training in Houghton.
3. We are awaiting PFAS results from EGLE for the well water samples taken from private residences located by the airport.
4. Mr. Harma discussed tenant complaints with the doors on Hangar 5. He stated he would look for bids to replace the two sliding doors.

Approval of the Reports

1. Airline Performance Reports – April 2021
2. Accounts Receivable Aging Summary – April 2021
3. Outstanding Balances Report – April 2021
4. Aviation Fuel Report – April 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Lorensen, supported by Mr. Snyder and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Reports 1-4 and place them on file.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorensen, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Appropriations

1. Approval of the Claims & Accounts
 - a. Prepays & Credit Card – April 2021
 - b. Accounts Payable – May 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Snyder and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Appropriation 1 – Claims and Accounts as presented and place on file.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorensen, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

2. Approval of the Revenue & Expenditure Report – April 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Lorensen, supported by Mr. Snyder and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Appropriation 2 – Revenue & Expenditure Report as presented and place on file.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorensen, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Other Matters

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila and supported by Mr. Lorensen to request the Department of Transportation replace Boutique Airlines as our carrier at the Gogebic-Iron County Airport.

Roll Call

Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorensen, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Discussion continued regarding subsequent steps. Mr. Simpson returned to the meeting and was asked if he would resign the contract. He stated he would be willing to resign the contract. He would support doing so to simplify things as they were just not a good fit for Ironwood. Mr. Siirila thanked him as it shortens the transition to find a replacement airline. Mr. Warren commented the initial decision process was intact, but the airline has not performed for Ironwood. Their increased numbers have been overshadowed by the two headline issues.

Public Comment

Several callers on the line provided comments including an outstanding, local staff and more research prior to the next selection. Mr. Francis inquired whether the lowest bidder needs to be utilized to which Mr. Harma replied no. Factors including connections and an interline agreement are very important, as well.

Mr. Lorenson stated that the 3rd Quarter Appropriations request was tabled at the last Gogebic County Board meeting as they require a detailed quarterly report from the Airport. Mr. Harma noted the report was provided as requested but Mr. Lorenson replied it should have stated quarterly, which it did not.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Snyder, supported by Mr. Siirila and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting by the call of Chairman Hanson. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Roll Call


Yes: (5) Mr. Byrns, Mr. Lorenson, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Hanson
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

06/14/2021
Date Approved



Brandon Snyder, Recording Secretary



Minutes Submitted by Kristi Freeman
Confidential Secretary, Gogebic-Iron County Airport