

Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting Minutes - March 24, 2026

Meeting called to order (Chairman) 530pm - Richard Clapp

Roll Call (Secretary):

Members Present: Richard Clapp, Dale Hagenbuch, Dennis Swartout, Tricia Harrell

Others Present: Earle Bares (Airport Manager), Tom Mandersheid (Airport Liaison)

Guests: Mayor Bob Monetza, Jennifer Bares, Tony Gwinn, Ben Enninga, Roland Ashby,

Kevin Jarchow

Agenda approval: Clapp motions to approve, Swartout seconds. Harrell asks if tree trimming on agenda (yes). Motion to approve agenda carried unanimously.

First call to audience:

Jennifer Bares: (14981 Briarwood St) Dawn Patrol still proceeding as planned regardless of status of runway rehabilitation, reference GHAA vote. GHAA considered this event a community event and did not foresee impact for pilots due to availability of E/W runway.

Tony Gwinn: Haley not working the Drop Zone this year, Zach will be DZ manager.

Roland Ashby: EAA will be doing Young Eagles event on June 6 Dawn Patrol. Approx 400 kids flown during 3 months last year between Young Eagles and 3 private flights, and about 600 adults attended as well. Young Eagles & EAA was a positive impact on community. EAA is supporting Grand Haven High School aviation club. GHAA considering Youth Camp event next summer in conjunction with EAA support.

Kevin Jarchow – Lease payment system online is difficult to use and invoice doesn't include the account number that the website requires. Pay by credit card requires a fee. Account payables dept requires additional information to find payment. Requesting action from City so tenants can pay hangar rent online.

Approval of Feb 24th Board Meeting Minutes: Swartout motion to approve as presented. Clapp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Airport Manager Report: Airport activity normal, fuel sales trending upward a little (possibly due to newer tenants actively flying more). Approach tree trimming update: PAPI & REIL surfaces complete and in full compliance. North and South approach complete and in full compliance (Threshold setting, state compliance, and Part 77 surfaces). South approach surface was changed

from Part 77 Surface to threshold setting surface (now at end of runway instead of 200 ft past the end of runway), which moves the trapezoid back. West approach – almost complete. East approach- progressing as intended, currently notifying property owners so trees can be marked and removed. Hangar doors continue to be a problem – maintenance review in progress. REILS require more research for both repair and cost to replace. Box hangar location selection review in progress. Couple of inquiries received.

Harrell: asks what is keeping us from selecting sites for box hangars, references ALP selected sites.

Earle Bares: sites mostly selected, specifically starting with NE side where beacon used to be. Also suggesting north end of hangar row C. Row C will be 50 ft deep, so edge of those will be a practical place.

Swartout: suggested we add this topic for next meeting agenda, discussion by Airport Board
Clapp: consideration for sequence of first 3 or so box hangars, reference utilities

Harrell: voices need to adhere to airport layout plan for best use of space

Anything needed before April meeting or just add to April agenda?

Earle Bares: just add to April agenda

Manager Report (cont.): Runway 18-36 Rehabilitation project scheduled for month of June, scheduled for 4 week closure, but could be done sooner. Per contract, the E/W runway is to be closed no more than 3 days- on a Tues Wed Thurs to reduce impact to Skydive Grand Haven. RWY 18/36 will be raised by approx. 1in on N end, so lights will need to be raised to accommodate the raise of slope will be changed slightly, to where it should be. New T-Hangars C Row: design phase contract is approved so design of hangar is now in process. Crack seal & pavement remarking project approved by city council, cost 100% covered by State of Michigan. Contractors contacted, work scheduled later next month. Project includes all surfaces except RWY 18/36 (see report). Future airport funded projects on hold until we know more about tree trimming cost. Airport Security, Safety, Noise Abatement: No noise complaints, deer seen at end of east runway and in field on west side. 4 NOTAMs issued for 3GM. Operations/Activity: nothing to note. Fuel sales- 739 gal, compared to 300 last month and 485 last year. 58 aircraft on field. 2 aircraft worked on last month and 5 currently undergoing maintenance. No facilities issues, new heaters working well in aircraft maint. building. High winds causing repairs to hangar doors. Ground heave present, especially for A row, causing 2 in change. All hangars full with waiting list. 3 on waiting list “desperate” and maintain weekly contact. Runway checks update to date. Repaired/Replaced several lamps on runway edge lighting, more needed. Say Weather antenna seems to be impacted by high winds. Say Weather (3 radio clicks) may be causing runway lights to turn on/off unexpectedly.

Harrell: What has been done since last meeting to fix this? What do you need?

Earle Bares: nothing, need time.

Clapp: Have you talked to Say Weather company?

Earle: no. Instant approach to get rid of problem is to change from 3 clicks to 4

Harrell: Are the lights turning off when people access Say Weather with 3 clicks?

Earle: Sometimes.

Clapp: requests update at next meeting.

Earle: don't consider it a huge concern, but can't duplicate issue. 3/4/5 clicks for runway lights still works great. Maybe a timing issue, or speed of clicks. Nothing in supplement for pilots to know how many clicks or that there is Say Weather. Can possibly issue a NOTAM.
Tom Mandersheid: suggested getting something out in a NOTAM.

Manager Report (cont.): QT pods up to date, Fuel Farm- dispenser pumps working. Software updates happen quite often with the new QT pod. Cloud based, and when going on, we lose the ability to pump fuel. They schedule them for overnights around 2am, but they usually take about 15 minutes. We know in advance when updates will occur. Flight instruction continues to be given, with possible new CFI (limited hours). Aviation fuel prices remain steady but going up, and likely will continue. Jet A going up in price more than 100LL. 1 tank ½ full, one 5/8. Current price for new fuel purchase is up 40-50 cents per gal. Both Tanks 5000gal capacity, but require 500 gal empty space in tank.

Tom Mandersheid: suggests getting a partial fill while gas still low.

Airport Liaison report: Tom Mandersheid

Meeting Adjourned (Chairman) 610pm