Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2026

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

Roll Call (Secretary):

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

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

Guests: Mayor Bob Monetza, Roland Ashby, James Hagen, Ben Ennenga

Agenda approval: Swarthout motions to approve. Harrell requests to add to the agenda- updates on projects in the vicinity of the airport (Obstructions, construction, powerplant, solar panel project, etc.). Harrell is reminded that there will be a meeting on Solar next month, Harrell agrees and notes the obstructions/towers can be discussed in Airport Manager's report. Harrell seconds the motion to approve. Motion carries.

First call to audience:

Jim Hagen: (400 Lake) Made a FOIA request on glare study for the solar project. BLP returned study within one day, study is dated Sep 1st, conducted by Augustine Solar. Glare study no longer required unless there is a control tower. No yellow glare (good because yellow causes an after-image), but green glare had 18,891 annual minutes for RWY9 final, and 681 minutes for RWY27 final. Next step is to be determined by airport, but airport could ask if MDOT Aero has been scheduled to review the study. Generic panel was considered for this study, but the study could also be re-run when BLP chooses the specific panel to use.

Earle queries if there was any consideration for the traffic pattern in this study. Jim says this study was for a straight in approach.

Approval of August 25, 2026 Airport Board Meeting Minutes: Swartout motion, Harrell seconds, Tom notes typo on the date at the top of the minutes. Motion carries with the correction.

New Business: none

Old Business: Hangar Maintenance (Earle Bares):

No response from contractors, but Earle has prioritized major repairs. Rollers are priority. D row is one of the oldest "new" hangar as priority. But for the doors themselves, certain hangars in certain rows have known difficulties. Hard to prioritize totally, but we should start with D row and go from there. Swartout asks how long it has been since we have heard from contractors. Earle: about 6 weeks. And I have been calling.

Airport Manager Report: (Earle)

Manager report: activity is up, but fuel sales above normal but fuel cost will go up at a rapid rate and will likely impact the activity/fuel sales. Contract for state of MI aeronautics local grant program has been executed. Grant is 50% in, will replace fuel dispenser electrical reels, 100LL nozzle, 9 & 27 REILs, and painting of select hangars / roof coating. Painting all hangars that need painting, including hangar rows B, F, G, and H, maintenance hangar, and skydive hangar.
Skydive GH (Tony Guinn) wants to sign a land lease and build 60x60 foot hangar with 60x18 foot door. Desired location is end of C row closest to their existing hangar.
Earle notes that because the proposed C row hangars are nested, there will be storage areas adjacent to some hangars. Harrell asks why the hangars have to have space between them. Earl states it is fire code.
Mandersheid asks who is paying for the design change for that row of hangars via John. Earle says Tony will be working with John as he does C row to do them at the same time. **Mandersheid** cautions Earle to make sure Tony is not being assured he can do things without the details being brought in front of the board. **Harrell** asks when we

should agree about the placement of his proposed hangar so he can move forward with planning. Board members voice desire to see a more solidified plan/design. Harrell asks to add this topic to October meeting agenda. Earle is proposing 42 cents per sq ft. for the land lease cost. **Harrell** asks why the rate is so high compared to previous discussions. Brings up Jost and previous min standards rate. Jost is 8 cents, and 35 cents was the previously discussed rate. Earle says 42 cents is the appropriate market rate for current time, price has gone up since last discussion. **Harrell** asks what airports were being compared to determine market rate. Ann Arbor, Muskegon, or other airports that have different services, better snow removal, etc. Market rate should consider amenities when determining market rate for land lease. **Swartout** asks if the 42 cents is fixed for the life of the lease. Earle says there is a clause in the lease to increase every year.

Young Eagles Flight flew 97 kids with 7 aircraft. 288 kids given flights this year. Trunk or Treat - Sat Oct 24 from 2-4pm. Need candy/monetary donations, and volunteers for parking. DPS will be contacted regarding traffic situation. Say Weather is back on for activation with 3 clicks to get wind direction and speed. (provided demonstration on handheld radio) Airport manager requested a change to the notes to add SayWeather in the airport directory.

Any construction done on/near airport property should have a 7460 form, and should maybe contact the airport to find out what to/not to do. Airport approach plan must be considered. MDOT Aero is emphasizing this and zoning around the airport. Harrell asks for clarification. Earle says there is a state zoning ordnance associated with the airport. Harrell asks for update on the construction of a previously proposed tower and if it will impact our RNAV approach. Earle says it should not.

N, S, and West approach tree trimming is done. For east: 38 parcels with estimated 168 trees identified to be trimmed or removed, letters have been sent and coordination with homeowners made. Some owners wish only to trim (and may have a trim-only easement). Height of trees will be trimmed in accordance with easements, and even though 10 feet of trimming is more desirable, when possible, some easements only allow 5 feet. **Mandersheid** comments on what we should expect for timeline and milestones. **Hagenbuch**: Can you ask if they would go 10 feet instead of 5 if there is only a 5ft easement. Earle discusses some complaints and difficulties from the last round of tree trimming. A quarter of people seem resistant.

Grant for REILS received, will replacing 43 year old system with LED units. Installation by airport personnel. Fuel system, nozzle, grounding reels will be done in the next week or two. Hangar painting timeline unknown, likely next year due to temperature. Noise abatement- a couple of helicopter activity complaints. Black hawk helicopter- not so much because of the noise, but curiosity about the activity. One complaint was about the helicopter noise (R22 helicopter was practicing), and airport manager asked him to cease or consider going to Muskegon to practice. Discussion about whether or not that was appropriate- **Clapp** and **Harrell** disagreed with asking a pilot to discontinue aviation operations at an airport. **Swarthout** thought it was handled well. One bird strike reported. 4 NOTAMs issued. Fuel price increased drastically for both 100LL and Jet A, expected to continue to rise. All hangars rented. One aircraft on field was sold and new tenant is slotted for that hangar. Losing a Mooney and gaining a C182. Many runway edge lights burned out this year. Fuel dispenser/fuel pumps work well. Condensation issues exist on both 100LL and Jet A display window/LED. Plenty of water protection measures in place for tanks, this just affects the display. Tree trimming / obstruction removal summary enclosed.

Airport Liaison Report (Tom Mandersheid)
Cash: $443,751.47 (not counting grant money that is allocated), balance looks good. Appreciation expressed to members of the city staff who have helped with tree trimming process, especially Sarah Burgess, the secretary.

Second call to the audience: None.

Meeting Adjourned (Chairman) Hagenbuch motions to adjourn, seconded by Clapp. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned 6:37pm.