

## **Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting Minutes April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

Chairperson Ben Ennenga called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Roll Call: Richard Clapp

**Members present:** Denny Swartout, Richard Clapp, Ben Ennenga

Excused: Harrell

Unexcused: Hagenbuch

**Others Present:** Earle Bares- Airport Manager, Tom Mandersheid- Airport Liaison

**Guests:** Roland Ashby, Tom Howard

### **First Call to the audience**

Earle Bares, Airport Manager

The Grand Haven Aviation Association is actively preparing for the upcoming Dawn Patrol. Everything looks very good. I still need volunteers.

### **Minutes:**

- Acceptance of 03/25/2025 meeting minutes  
Motion by Clapp, seconded by Swartout, motion carried with unanimous support.

### **Old Business:**

(None)

### **New Business:**

- Say Weather, weather station report.

Ben: "Rick Clapp and I reviewed the Z98 (Ottawa Executive Airport) weather station. The airport's weather station uses wind instruments in the field, including a Yaesu handheld radio and synthesizers. This system costs \$2000 and can be set up similarly to their current display. In terms of usage, keying the radio provides abbreviated advisories for 3 seconds. We have

questions about interfacing it with our existing radio and its yearly calibration cost. The system could work with airport Unicom but might interfere with our current setup.”

- Minimum Standard section 4.2, awaiting city council approval
  - A building of at least 3600 square feet
  - Interior door opening not less than 58 feet wide and 16 feet tall
  - Interior ceiling height of at least 16 feet
  - Hydraulic lift and separate access door
  - Single-phase electric metered separately
  - Adequate interior lighting and electrical outlets
  - Interior concrete floor
  - Exterior paved concrete or asphalt apron of 60 x 60 feet

The City Council will review these additions next Tuesday, but they have not approved the contract yet. Both the wording additions and the contract need approval.

For land lease calculations, we are considering \$0.35 per square foot per year, which includes the area around the hangar and apron. Other airports have higher rates, like Ann Arbor at \$0.46 and Muskegon at \$0.48 per square foot. We must decide quickly as there is interest in these leases.

#### **Airport Manager's Report:**

*Summary: Our spring airport maintenance items are complete, including taking on the snow fence and the tractor and mower deck. Maintenance is all taken care of already*

- **Airport activity** remains slow. Skydive Operations have begun.
- **Hangars** are fully rented, and the waiting list continues to grow. Currently, there are six individuals in urgent need. It's unclear whether they are tying down aircraft outside. Most are not.
- **Funding and Projects:** Have received preliminary communication from MDOT for two State of Michigan airport funding programs. There will be no local match requirements. Fuel Pump project and Runway Rehab of runways 18/36.
- **Land Leases and Hangars:** Progress made on land leases and hangar projects; awaiting City Council approval for land lease changes. The maintenance of airport facilities is ongoing.
- **Hangar Demand:** Strong interest in hangar space with over 40 individuals on the list. Maintenance items such as repairing runway lights are underway.

## Projects

- Crack Sealing: The approved amount from MDOT is \$40,000, subject to adjustment if necessary. Responsibility lies with us, not the state of Michigan, requiring the management of the project independently. The city is theoretically responsible for overseeing that. The City of Grand Haven might assist with cost-effective completion. It should be noted that the State of MI will only reimburse 50% up to \$40,000. And only after we complete the project.

## Safety & Security

- No noise complaints
- 2 deer observed
- 3 Powerline Orange balls installed by BLP.
- No noise complaints
- 3 Notams, including parachute jumping from 17,999' MSL

## Airport Operations & Activity

- 165 Operations
- Fuel sales were greater than last year
- 751 Gallons of 100LL fuel sold, 0 Jet A
- 58 Aircraft home based on the field.
- Worked on 0 aircraft, no flight instruction
- Hangars are fully occupied

## Airport Facilities

EAA Hangar had a small part of the roof come up on the West side.

Regarding the heat pumps in the offices of the Maintenance hangar, it was noted that the temperature was substantially lower this year, affecting performance. Electric heaters supplement heating in some offices. It may be necessary to purchase auxiliary heating units for additional areas. The current system struggles below 20°F. The offices in question are next to water lines prone to cracking, but they are not directly impacted by the heat pumps.

## **Airport Liaison Report:**

The Airport Liaison report confirms everything is within budget, with an account cash balance of \$414,230.82 plus \$11,410 in receivables as of April 15th. Outstanding receivables largely pertain to Skydives lump sum payments.

The runway 18/36 project is pending federal funding approval, which could impact timelines. The airport capital budget review indicates all proposals were accepted without issue.

\$1575 over 90 days delinquent, this is a Skydive and City issue pertaining to lump sum payments.

**Second Call to audience:**

Tom Howard:

Is excited about new hangars. Comments include inquiries about new hangar plans. New hangars to be placed East of F row. Land leases for private hangar construction follow set minimum standards, ensuring compliance and future asset transfer to the city after 30 years.

**Motion to adjourn Clapp, seconded by Swartout**

**Adjournment 6:34 pm**

**Minutes submitted by board secretary, Richard Clapp**