

Grand Haven Airport Board Meeting Minutes - April 28, 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, Ben Enninga, Roland Ashby, Bob Smith,

Kevin Jarchow, Jared Bennes

Agenda approval: Clapp motions to approve, Swartout seconds.

First call to audience:

Jennifer Bares: (14981 Briarwood St) June 6th Dawn Patrol update: seeking volunteers (kitchen, parking, ground crew. Contact 616-842-4430). Good on silent action items, Dana & Brian consulted, public safety notified of event. Will connect again before Trunk or Treat.

Bob Smith: (Park Circle, Spring Lake) IRT solar farm, he used to fly from South Haven and saw a housing development built on airport grounds. Concerned about building things on/around 3GM airport that do not have to do with the airport.

Roland Ashby: (15003 Riverbluff PL) EAA will be doing Young Eagles event on June 6 Dawn Patrol/Open House. 8 aircraft committed, looking for 3 more. Registration opened 4/27 and 60 kids signed up. Closed registration so there could be walk ins. July and Aug dates published. Concerned about parking/space/maneuvering on ramp if we have 10-11 aircraft flying Young Eagles.

Jared Bennes: (1700 Robbins Rd). Recent Part 107 operator. Interested in starting a drone mapping business. Possibly practice flying at 3GM. May be at 3GM with measuring wheel, just practicing.

Approval of March Airport Board Meeting Minutes: Swartout motion to accept as presented. Hagenbuch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Box Hangar placement: Earle Bares (Airport Manager)

Update provided on current airport layout plan statistics/use of space, hangar mx, waiting list, and land lease interest (5-7 entities). There is interest for owners of larger aircraft to

base at 3GM, but no large hangars available. SE most corner of hangar area should be considered for the bigger box hangars MX hangar should be larger to service larger aircraft. For now, we wish not to build on the fields to the west of airport drive to preserve grass parking area. Mandersheid: Discussion on capacity of existing gas line to service new structures vs running a new line from Comstock. C row project cannot progress until tree cutting is complete. Therefore, those who wish to build a hangar adjacent to C row may have to wait until that project is complete.

Discussion amongst board members about best use of space, running utilities, etc. Generally, there is a desire to decide where first 5 box hangars must go. Swartout: first hangars should go where the picture shows the ones at the ends of the existing hangar rows (east of Airport Drive). Earle: We need to tell people where the hangar will go. Harrell: Instead of dictating where people have to build first, apply constraints: Last priority for land use is the current grass area used as a parking lot, the SE corner is reserved for very large hangars, and the area adjacent to C row may not be available until after T hangars are complete. Denny: present the options on the photo as “preferred” locations, so there can still be room for discussion.

Clapp motion: preferred locations for first 4 hangars to be built are at the end of F and G row, with reserved area for very large hangars at SE corner of ALP. Harrell seconds. Unanimously supported.

Airport Manager Report:

Fuel has gone up. MAP meeting May 5, will discuss provisional license and capital improvement plan. Summer/spring mx items complete, snow fence removed, yearly mx on mowers/tractors, water systems checked. June 6 Dawn Patrol. N/S runway rehab project to start June 1. Announced timeline and specific closures of surfaces as project progresses. Say Weather and lights work as intended, no issues. Explained how the clicks/lights/photocell/timer work. Lots of discussion. Look into putting something in the supplement about Say WX and light settings day & night? Earle will research and report back at May meeting. Airport approach obstructions- tree trimming for N/S approach complete, west is almost complete, East in progress. Oak wilt season will push some tree work to fall. Construction of C row hangars design phase approved, but on hold due to E/W runway tree trimming first. Future projects also on hold due to tree trimming.

(Harrell departs meeting 650pm)

Airport Manager Report cont.: 1 noise complaint across the street on Comstock, possibly impacted some tree removal allowing noise to pass that wouldn't have in the past. 5 NOTAMs published. Visibility change from 1 mile to 1/8 mile. 2 more aircraft on the field. One ultralight and one Stinson. Aircraft MX on 5 aircraft this month. MX hangar has some new roof leaks. Hangars full, waiting list. Hangar Doors have been receiving maintenance from high winds. Some Runway lights still need repair. N/S runway lights that are inop will

be repaired during runway rehab project. Fuel farm working well, software updates caused minor problems overnight around 2am for a few minutes at a time. Fuel cost up substantially, especially Jet A.

Mandersheid – how much fuel currently in tanks? Earle Bares - 2350 100LL and 2300 Jet A (both about half full) We have checked with vendor for split loads, but no benefit right now. Price about 1 dollar per gal more, not expected to come down soon.

Airport Liaison report: Tom Mandersheid – Receivables in good shape. Zero over 90 days. 10K in accts receivable. Cash balance \$466,746, but approx. 26K is going towards crack sealing. 16500 for west approach, (s approach paid) so really 428K range for cash balance. MAP meeting May 5- Agenda looks typical for this meeting. Expect query on provisional license. Community Funds escrow account- Funds advisory committee can recommend grants. 1 member of airport board, city manager (or rep) and one rep of aviation support group. Recommendations sent to City of Grand Haven. Mandersheid has ensured the funds get put into the airport fund (can be seen on budget summary page under revenue/Local grants)

Second call to audience (Chairman): none

Meeting Adjourned (Chairman) 710pm Clapp motions, Denny support. Carried unanimously.