



AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 18, 2021

The Rochelle Airport Advisory Board met on Monday, January 18, 2021 via Zoom.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Chairman Skip Kenney.

Roll Call: Present at the meeting Board Members: Gary Dunn, Skip Kenney, Rick Kettley, Dale Meyers, Claude McKibben and Joel Thompson. Also, present: Jason Anderson, Mayor John Bearrows, Jeff Fiegenschuh, Mike Hudetz, and Peggy Friday.

Absent: Norman Jenkins, Bill Tyler, Steve Wiggins and Doug Smith

Minutes: *A Motion by Mr. McKibben and Seconded by Mr. Kenney to approve the Airport Advisory Minutes dated January 20, 2020, as presented.* Motion passed by voice vote.

Operations (Mike Hudetz):

A. Airport/Staff Activity – August 16, 2020 to January 16, 2021

- Removed board member addresses from public access website.
- Repaired floor scrubber and scrubbed/cleaned Community Hangar floor.
- Cleaned up several downed trees at the rental house.
- Crack-filled south ramp, parking lot and taxiway to E-Row.
- Replaced the starter on the Kubota RTV.
- Hosted the Illinois Aviation Academy Fly-In Breakfast and Competition.
- Hosted the Rochelle City Employee Picnic.
- Replaced u-joints on the Woods mower.
- Met with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) via conference call for the annual TIPS Meeting on October 27, 2020.
- Had Weights and Measures in for annual inspection for pump accuracy.
- Had Protanic in for the annual fuel system inspection.
- Had ball joints replaced and prepped plow truck for snow season.
- Rebuilt 100LL fuel nozzle which was leaking.
- Repaired wiring in the windsock.

- Replaced the defective WIFI router in the Pilot Lounge.
 - Removed gravel pile west of Large Car Rebuilders to create additional farmable acreage.
 - Updated the house lease for an additional two years with tenant.
 - Arranged a discounted rate with Comfort Inn & Suites for Airport users.
- B. Chicagoland Skydiving Center (CSC)** – Mr. Hudetz reported for Doug Smith.
- CSC will not host large summer events in lieu of smaller gatherings because of COVID-19.
 - A free one-day seminar was held in the Community Hangar to recruit new jumpers.
- C. A&M Air Sports** – Mr. Hudetz is preparing to exhibit at EAA AirVenture '21 July 26-August 1, 2021 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Flight Training was up 65% in 2020 in part because of the Pandemic.

New Business:

- A. CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) Grant** – This Grant was offered to all public airports that took grant money. Rochelle Municipal Airport received \$30,000.
- B. New Courtesy Car** – A new Chevrolet Tahoe SUV courtesy car is now in use at the Airport since the City is without a reliable taxi or Uber service to visiting pilots. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Dunn expressed their thanks and confirmed the need to provide adequate transportation.
- C. Temporary Use of Community Hangar** – Since there are no tenants in the Community Hangar, it is being used for the storage of recreational and motor vehicles, trailers, farm machinery, trikes, and a fire engine. Rent is being collected from the stored items until April 2021. Mr. Hudetz will continue to advertise for a permanent tenant/business.
- D. Discussions with Large Car Rebuilders** – The City and IDOT who concur that the purchase of the Large Car property contiguous to the Airport would be in the best interest of future airport expansion. 90% of the cost could be paid from an upcoming Transportation Bill. There may be an option to purchase the property sooner and lease it back until the owner retires the business.
- E. Hangar Rents in 2022** – Future construction projects should not impact hangar access. Rental rates have not increased in 5 years. By 2022, \$10-12M will have been spent in infrastructure improvements including new runways and taxiways. New revenue streams are necessary to maintain quality services. Incremental rate increases are preferred.
- F. AWOS Problems** – The City's Automated Airport Weather Station (AWOS) is aged and in need of an upgrade. The current State Budget does not provide immediate funding for AWOS upgrade to a 5G system. Radio and phone access to continue and real time information and reports on airport weather conditions would still be available. However, the AWOS unit may not be

accessible by internet temporarily. All Illinois airport operations will be impacted when the system is finally upgraded.

Old Business:

- A. RV Parking Plans** – With minimal investment, the Airport could provide four test RV hookups with electric pedestal, fresh water, and dump station near ABCD Row. The project is included in the 2021 Budget. RMU could install underground wiring and tubing.

- B. Pedestrians on Ramp** – Issue seems to have seasonally lessened. All passengers must be escorted by pilot. Directional footprints to be painted on the ramp and taxiway leading to the Flight Deck Bar & Grill sidewalk in the Spring 2021.

- C. Construction Projects** – Mr. Hudetz shared a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting Past and Present Airport Projects than began in 2020 including: runway milling operations by Curan; temporary taxiway to turf runway; ABCD access taxiway filled and crack-filled by Martin; removal of Taxiway Alpha; paving access taxiway; runway lighting, wiring and replacement by Sonoma; counterpoise lighting suppression by Sonoma; construction of new Taxiway Alpha; Striping access taxiway; brush[cleaning prior to sealant; runway sealcoat, base-paving of new Alpha Taxiway; applying pavement test strip to the runway; paving runway, painting runway; painting runway numbers; grooving runway; runway drainage after grooving; Taxiway Alpha striping; runway striping; and the application of grass seed. Operations returned to normal in August 2020. Slides also detailed the Pavement Condition Index, phases and stages of ramp reconstruction and parallel taxiway east side project.

Public Commentary: The Member-At-Large position on the Airport Advisory Board is vacant. Mayor Bearrows is planning to meet with Mr. Anderson to fill the position by March 2021.

Chairman Kenney would like to begin working on a plan to present to the city allowing individual aircraft owners to lease airport property for up to 50 years to build and maintain personal hangars. Project would require IDOT Division of Aeronautics approval.

Mr. Thompson asked if the reconstructed runways would increase weight-bearing capacity. He also suggested photos of certain airplanes on the Airport website be removed if unable to accommodate.

Next Meeting: Next Airport Advisory Board meeting - April 19, 2021 at 3pm.

Adjournment 4:32pm

Submitted by Peggy Friday