RAVALLI COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
11 FEBRUARY 2009

A meeting of the *Ravalli County* Airport Board was held on Wednesday, 11 February 2009, in the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioner's conference room at the Ravalli County Administrative Center, Hamilton, Montana.

Board members present were: Dave Hedditch Fred Hasskamp Carl Fox Tex Irwin Frank Kucera Jim Trowbridge

Others present were as follows:

Dave Hardy, Retired
Mike Jorgensen
Steve Wolters, North Star Aviation
Ray Smith, T. M.
Dave Beckett, Hamilton Aviation
Laurie Kelly, Hamilton Aviation
Dave Schultz, Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust
Michael Howell, Bitterroot Star

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Hedditch at 1:00 P.M. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the regular business of the Ravalli County Airport Board.

Item 1: Minutes of the 07 January 2009 Ravalli County Airport Board meeting were approved as corrected. Chairman Hedditch stated corrections to the minutes as follows: That Dave Stelling, FAA Helena HEL-ADO Manager would approve funding a 4,200 foot runway, located 400 foot to the east of the current runway. Also that overruns on each end of the relocated runway could be constructed.

Item 2: Carl Fox, Board Treasurer, reported on the income/outgo as it relates to the Airport budget. Also that there is still some electrical work to be done on the Airport beacon. Expenses have yet to be submitted.

Item 3: Airport Manager's Report: (Presented by Board Chairman Hedditch in absence of the Airport Manager)

1. Parking area not yet completed.
2. Airport signage – will be in place with warmer.
3. Containment plan by North Star Aviation. When will it be implemented? When asked, Wolters stated that he was not sure, that he needed Engineering input.
4. Airport beacon working great.
5. New tractor working great.
6. AWOS – Irwin & Fox stated that they have been unable to get a signal. Hedditch stated that one needs to double-click. It was concluded that this should not happen with a continuous radio signal.
7. DES Training – Airport Manager in training this week.
8. Apron parking issue still pending. Dave Beckett says he wants offer recommended by Carl Fox. Fox's response was that not all parties are in agreement to such plan; therefore, parking not resolved. Discussion ensued.
9. Several unpaid leases. Short by about $35,000.
10. Received snow-blower attachment for tractor; also snow bucket on tractor to dump snow onto truck

Item 4: Carl Fox brought up the acquisition of the fire-fighting truck. It is currently stored in the Snow-removal equipment building. It was reported that all was donated. Irwin stated that the equipment is to be contracted out by the U.S. Forest Service. It is conceived as being income producing equipment. The truck & accompanying equipment are to be used by the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department. Fox also stated that, if necessary, it could also be used at the Airport, on condition that the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department will man it.

Item 5: Chairman Hedditch stated that Hamilton Aviation has submitted a diagram of an on-premise sign it wants to install (Exxon/Mobil). Irwin mentioned the Martz/Fornier sign that should be removed. Beckett stated that that sign will be removed. The sign is to run east/west & located in front of the hangar.

- Fox made a motion to approve installation of the sign. Seconded by Hasskamp. Motion passed.

Item 6: Chairman Hedditch discussed an e-mail from Glenda regarding residences at the Airport. FAA Grant Assurances covers this issue. *Max Martz* can only sell the improvements as a hangar/restaurant. He is currently in the process of suing the County regarding this restriction. Discussion ensued.

Item 7: Chairman Hedditch introduced a letter from Patrick Barry regarding relocation of the old hangars. He would like to use the old hangars for personal use. Discussion ensued regarding cost of relocating the hangars; also what use would be made of them if & when moved. Irwin suggested that Barry discuss this proposal with Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust (BCHT). Dave Schultz, BCHT Representative, stated that such proposal will be discussed with Barry.

Item 8: Chairman Hedditch produced a draft letter he had prepared regarding the new runway. Since the Aviation Safety Foundation is meeting tomorrow, he will hold off preparation of the final version until after the meeting. Considerable discussion among the Board members relative to some of the issued in the proposed letter:

- Add 500 foot paved overrun to each end of the runway, plus retaining an option of extending the runway to 5,200 feet in length.
- Discussion as where the Runway Protection Zone begins – at the runway threshold, or at the end of the paved overrun?
- Each of the 4 alternatives were brought up, with Alternative #4 of the Environmental Assessment being the recommended alternative

Hedditch wants to have each member of the Airport Board sign the letter, which will then be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. All present but Trowbridge agreed to sign the letter. Trowbridge stated that he did not object to the new runway, but would not sign as the County is pressing to implement a new Airport Affected Area plan. Trowbridge, in his opinion, stated that this plan was directly related to the runway, one which will affect many additional property owners, placing very restrictive encumbrances on property owners & affecting a property's bundle of rights. All of these property restrictions would be in perpetuity, without any possibility for remuneration, & without any voice or judicial action regarding any present or future airport operations or any additional incursions the airport may impose on such properties. Discussion ensued.

Next Airport Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 04 March 2009, @ 2:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:45 P.M.

Jim E. Trowbridge

Submitted by Jim E. Trowbridge
Secretary, Pro Tem
Ravalli County Airport Board