

**MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE CITY OF POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021**

The Airport Advisory Board of the City of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, convened in a regular session on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Notice of this regular meeting of the Poplar Bluff Airport Advisory Board was given in the Daily American Republic, a newspaper of general circulation located in the City of Poplar Bluff. A copy of the agenda of this meeting was posted on a bulletin board located in the City Municipal building at 501 Vine Street in the City of Poplar Bluff, twenty-four hours prior to this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Keith Berry at 5:05 p.m.

The invocation was given by City Council Liaison Mayor Pro Tem Steve Davis.

A roll call was as follows: Present: Helton, Penn, Vaughn, Berry, Walls, Wright, Yarbrow; Absent: Schalk, Bach.

Also present were Recording Secretary Lori Phelps and Airport Manager Gary Pride who performed the duties of their respective offices. Others present: Dusin Ramsey, Shannon Ramsey, Jesse Vaughn, Jim Dohrman, Morgan Taylor and others.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST Each member of the Airport Advisory Board was given the opportunity to disclose any possible conflict of interest dealing either with any item on the printed agenda or with any matter discussed at a previous meeting.

No conflict of interest was disclosed.

CITIZEN'S INPUT Each person in the audience was given the opportunity to address the Airport Advisory Board on any matter which was not on the printed agenda.

Mr. Dustin Ramsey, who gave his address as 2021 Meadows Road, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Board and stated he rents the maintenance hangar at the Poplar Bluff Regional Business Airport and provides mechanic services as well as flight training services. He stated he believes his business is an asset to the Airport.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the Airport Advisory Board meeting held on January 27, 2021 were presented for approval. Chairman Berry asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as presented. Board Member Chris Yarbrow stated in the section referenced Election of Officers, Jesse Vaughn was listed as seconding a motion but it should reflect Board Member Diane Vaughn made the motion. After further discussion, motion was made by Board Member Yarbrow, seconded by Board Member Robert Helton and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected of the January 27, 2021 Airport Advisory Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS The Airport Advisory Board discussed the runway reconstruction project.

Runway Reconstruction Project Airport Manager Gary Pride addressed the Board and stated the runway reconstruction project was awarded to Emery Sapp & Sons. He stated the preconstruction meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2021 and the tentative dates for the closure of the runway will be set then. Mr. Pride stated it will be a 30-day closure at minimum and all pilots and plane owners will be notified so they can plan accordingly.

He stated a concrete plant will be onsite for the project and it would be an optimal time to have additional concrete poured in various areas around the hangars at the Airport at reduced costs if City funds are available.

After further discussion, motion was made by Vice-Chairman Chris Wright, seconded by Board Member Ryan Walls and carried to make a written request to the City Manager and City Council for funding for additional concrete to be poured at the Airport.

City Manager Pride stated he would draft a letter to the City Manager and City Council for the Board to review and approve at the next regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Airport Advisory Board discussed new hangar lease agreements.

New Hangar Lease Agreements

Airport Manager Gary Pride addressed the Board and stated there are several hangars at the Airport that are rented and used to store various items other than aircraft. He stated he would like to see the Board draft guidelines and regulations relative to hangar rentals to ensure they are used for aircraft only.

Mr. Emmett Crawford appeared before the Board and stated housing aircraft in the hangars is very important when obtaining grant funding for projects.

Mr. Jesse Vaughn, who gave his address as 240 Ellen Road, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Board and stated he agrees and would be willing to serve on a committee tasked with drafting guidelines and regulations relative to hangar rentals.

Mr. Morgan Taylor, who gave his address as 3690 McLane Drive, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Board and suggested the possibility of giving a discounted fuel rate to pilots who rent a hangar at the Airport.

Vice-Chairman Chris Wright stated he will head up a committee relative to this matter and will give an update to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Construction of New Hangars

The Airport Advisory Board reviewed a recommendation for the construction of new hangars to the City Council.

Airport Manager Pride addressed the Council and stated there is high demand for additional rental hangars at the Poplar Bluff Regional Business Airport. He stated there is only so much in Capital Funds for the Airport each year, so he will need to appeal to the City Manager and City Council for additional funding if this project is to ever come to fruition.

After further discussion, Airport Manager Pride stated he would draft a letter to the City Manager and City Council relative to funding for the construction of hangars for the Board to review and approve at the next regular meeting.

2024 Solar Eclipse Preliminary Plans

The Airport Advisory Board discussed preliminary plans for the 2024 solar eclipse.

Airport Manager Pride stated a total solar eclipse is predicted for April 8, 2024 and the Airport is beginning early preparations for the event. He stated Poplar Bluff will be a center-point of the eclipse and people are beginning to inquire about reserving spots at the Airport to view it.

Chairman Keith Berry stated he will work on this item with Mr. Pride and report back to the Board at a later date.

Hangar Rent Report

Airport Manager Gary Pride presented a hangar rent report to the Board.

Mr. Pride stated all hangars are currently full. He stated the new door on the Libla Hangar has been installed along with new cable and will be operational within the next week.

Report on Daily Operations at the Poplar Bluff Municipal Airport

Airport Manager Pride presented an update on the daily operations at the Airport.

Mr. Pride addressed the Board and discussed several items with them. Included in his report on the daily operations at the Airport were: a report on fuels sales, a report on arrivals and departures and various other items.

Questions & Discussion

Board Member Chris Yarbrow addressed the Board and stated he believes for the benefit of the Airport another mechanic should have the opportunity to work at the Airport so pilots and aircraft owners have another option. He stated there are several pilots who will go outside of Poplar Bluff to have their aircrafts worked on rather than using Semo Aviation which is currently the mechanic shop onsite at the Poplar Bluff Regional Business Airport.

Mr. Zach Moore, who gave his address as Painton, Missouri, appeared before the Board and stated he currently works for Mr. Dustin Ramsey who owns Semo Aviation and it is his opinion Mr. Ramsey is one of the best mechanics around. He stated more space is needed than he currently has in the maintenance hangar. Mr. Moore stated Mr. Ramsey currently has to turn down work on larger aircraft that will not fit into the maintenance hangar.

Mr. Jesse Vaughn addressed the Board and stated there are other options out of town for pilots to use for mechanic services. He stated he does not believe there is enough business to sustain two mechanic shops at the Airport.

Mr. Everett Crawford addressed the Board and stated he believes it would be unfair to Mr. Ramsey to allow another mechanic onsite.

Mr. Edwin Vaughn, who gave his address as Hunt Street, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, appeared before the Board and stated he doesn't believe competing mechanics at the Airport is a good idea.

Vice-Chairman Wright stated he has had his planes worked on by Mr. Ramsey and had trouble with them afterwards. He stated he takes his planes elsewhere for repairs and maintenance. He stated he would like to have another option available. He stated he also does not feel safe in the planes Mr. Ramsey uses for flight instruction.

Board Member Yarbrow disclosed that he is currently in the market for a plane he would be using as a rental. He stated the current ordinance regarding rules and regulations for the Airport was passed in 1986 and needs to be revised and updated. Board Member Yarbrow volunteered to head a committee to amend and update the current ordinance relative to Airport rules and regulations.

Airport Manager Pride stated years ago a bid was put out for the rental of the maintenance hangar and Mr. Ramsey's was the only offer received. He stated it is on a month to month basis with no lease in place. He stated the rent is \$500 monthly and includes all utilities as well as the use of City-owned tools. Mr. Pride stated he is happy the flight school is at the Airport, but the majority of pilots do not use Mr. Ramsey's services and he doesn't believe another mechanic onsite would pose a threat to Semo Aviation's business.

After further discussion, there was a consensus of the Board to revisit this item at the next regular meeting.

There being no further business to come before this regular session of the Airport Advisory Board, motion was made by Board Member Yarbrow, seconded by Board Member Helton and carried that this session be adjourned.

Chairman Berry declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Phelps
Recording Secretary