

**AIRPORT COMMISSION  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JANUARY 25, 2012  
5:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
  - A. Minutes (page 1)
- III. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Election of Officers (page 3)
  - B. Meeting Schedule (page 4)
  - C. State Aid For Airport Maintenance & Operation (page 5)
  - D. 2012 Project (page 9)
  - E. Spring Conference (page 10)
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. 2012 Fly-In (page 11)
  - B. Slurry Seal - Update
- V. INFORMATIONAL
  - A. MN Council of Airports (MCOA) (page 12)
- VI. ADJOURN

**Please contact Ron Mergen at 320-243-3714 ext. 230 or at [ron@paynesvillemn.com](mailto:ron@paynesvillemn.com) if you can't attend the meeting.**

**Members: Larry Bollman, Gene Beavers, Phil Bailey, Steve Brown & Bert Stanley.  
Advisory Members: Ron Mergen, Renee Eckerly, and Chuck DeWolf.**

This agenda has been prepared to provide information regarding an upcoming meeting of the Paynesville Airport Commission. This document does not claim to be complete and is subject to change.

**BARRIER FREE:** All Paynesville Airport Commission meetings are accessible to the handicapped. Attempts will be made to accommodate any other individual need for special services. Please contact City Hall 320-243-3714 early so that necessary arrangements can be made.

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION**

**COMMITTEE/COUNCIL NAME:** Airport Commission

Committee/Council Meeting Date: January 25, 2012

Agenda Section: Consent

Originating Department:

Item Number: II - A

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Minutes

Prepared by: Staff

**COMMENTS:**

Please review the minutes from the October 26, 2011 Airport Commission meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

**COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION:**

Motion to approve minutes from the October 26, 2011 Airport Commission meeting.

**MINUTES  
REGULAR AIRPORT COMMISSION**

**OCTOBER 26, 2011**

Chairman Bert Stanley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Commission members present were Larry Bollman, Gene Beavers, and Phil Bailey. Steve Brown and Renee Eckerly were absent. Others present were Ron Mergen, Public Works Director; Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Stephanie Hormann, Cable Coordinator; and Tim Mahoney.

**Motion was made by Bollman to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2011  
Airport Commission Meeting. Seconded by Bailey and unanimously carried.**

**CIP MEETING**

Mergen and DeWolf reported that they attended a meeting with the FAA and MnDOT and since discretionary funding is limited, both entities are encouraging airports to only schedule projects that meet their current funding and not to schedule projects they won't do. The CIP list was reviewed and there were no issues or changes; the only open project for 2012 is the Slurry Seal and the City portion will be credited.

**2012 AIR SHOW**

Mergen reported that there is no money in the City budget for the 2012 Fly-In; having the Friends of the Airport trying to find some funding and having them do the breakfast again was brought up. Mergen also reported that he was contacted by Darrel Massman and William Cowden about them coming back next year and he will seek more information from them. It was also mentioned that the flight simulator should be brought back next year and that the Fly-In should be coordinated with the antique car run that goes through Paynesville every year or with other flight groups to get more people to come to the event and to offer another attraction.

**REVIEW 2011 FLY-IN**

The Commission discussed the Fly-In and it was reported that 498 people were fed at the Friends of the Airport breakfast, with 63 of those being pilots and 435 being additional adults and kids; the net profit from the event was \$317.88 which will be used for next years event. The Commission also discussed trying to coordinate the Fly-In with other events, including the antique car run.

**THROUGH THE FENCE- UPDATE**

There was nothing new to discuss.

**SLURRY SEAL- UPDATE**

DeWolf reported that because of the state shutdown and FAA furlough, the City didn't get the grant agreement until late August which made it too late to do the project this year. He also stated that the project will be done next year with the same contractor and price as this year; the only change in the project will be the completion date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

2

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION**

**COMMITTEE/COUNCIL NAME:** Airport Commission

Committee/Council Meeting Date: January 25, 2012

Agenda Section: New Business

Originating Department:

Item Number: III - A

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Election of Officers/Terms

Prepared by: Staff

**COMMENTS:**

Nominations for Chairperson.

Nominations for Vice-Chair.

Nominations for Secretary.

**ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

In 2011 the following terms were set:

- Brown - expires December 31, 2011
- Stanley - expires December 31, 2011
- Beavers - expires December 31, 2011
- Bailey - expires December 31, 2012
- Bollman - expires December 31, 2013

**COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION:**

A motion to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as Chair.

A motion to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as Vice-Chair.

A motion to elect \_\_\_\_\_ as Secretary.

Motion to set the terms for \_\_\_\_\_.

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION**

**COMMITTEE/COUNCIL NAME: Airport Commission**

Committee/Council Meeting Date: January 25, 2012

Agenda Section: New Business

Originating Department:

Item Number: III - B

**ITEM DESCRIPTION: Meeting Schedule**

Prepared by: Staff

**COMMENTS:**

Each Commission this time of year sets their annual meeting schedule. Currently, the Commission meets quarterly on the fourth Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. These meeting are also currently tapped.

**ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

**COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION:**

Motion to set the Airport Commission Meetings for \_\_\_\_\_.



**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

Office of Aeronautics

MS410

222 East Plato Blvd.

Saint Paul, MN 55107

November 21, 2011

Mr. Ron Mergen  
Airport Manager  
City Hall  
221 Washburne Avenue  
Paynesville, MN 56362-1697

NOV 22 2011

Dear Mr. Mergen:

**Subject: State Aid for Airport Maintenance and Operation  
State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2012 and 2013**

Enclosed are three copies of the agreement for requesting state aid for eligible costs you incur for maintaining your airport from July 1 through June 30 of each SFY. Also included is a resolution form authorizing the execution of the Maintenance and Operation Agreement. You may use this form or send in the standard resolution form used by your Board or Council. Please return three signed copies of the agreement and resolution with original signatures to Jenny Bahneman of our office (mailing label enclosed). After the agreement has been signed and approved, a copy will be returned to you.

Please note that revisions were made to the agreement. You may now submit a breakdown of incurred costs quarterly if said incurred costs total at least \$5,000.00 for the quarter. (See Item Number 7 on your agreement to find out if this is applicable for your airport.)

You will be reimbursed for 2/3 of the eligible item costs up to the amount indicated in your grant agreement. Due to budget constraints, we are unable to redistribute the total available maintenance dollars for expansion projects that created more airport infrastructure. Please do not submit additional expenses once you have received 100% of your grant agreement dollar amount.

Prior to any reimbursement being made by the state, the municipality must have a zoning authority established, and such authority must have adopted or be in the process of adopting an airport zoning ordinance in accordance with Minnesota Statute. Reimbursement may be denied entirely, or in part, if the airport is not properly maintained.

It is particularly important during the winter and spring seasons, or when hazardous conditions may exist, to keep the air-traveling public informed of the status or condition of your airport. This is accomplished by filing an e-NOTAM or by notifying Flight Service at 1-877-487-6867.

Sincerely,

Michael Ferry, P.E.  
Manager, Airport Development Section

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer



5

## GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION

This Agreement is by and between the state of Minnesota acting through its Commissioner of Transportation ("State"), and the City of Painesville ("Recipient").

WHEREAS, the Recipient desires the financial assistance of the State for maintenance and operation of the Painesville Municipal Airport ("Airport"); and

WHEREAS, the State is authorized by Minnesota Statutes Sections 360.015 and 360.305 to provide financial assistance to the Recipient for its airport.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. This Agreement is effective upon execution by the Recipient and the State, and will remain in effect for the State's fiscal years 2012 and 2013.
2. If paint striping of the Airport is a part of this Agreement, the State will contract for the periodic paint striping of the airport runways and taxiways. The Recipient agrees to a deduct of \$273.00 as its assigned share of airport paint striping. The Recipient agrees to cooperate with the marking operation.
3. The Recipient will keep the runway and the area around the lights mowed. The grass will be mowed at least 7 feet beyond the lights, and at no time will the grass exceed 6 inches in height on the landing area.
4. If the Airport is to remain operational during the winter months, the Recipient will keep at least one runway, associated taxiway, and apron area cleared of snow and ice to the same priority as arterial roads. Snow banks will be limited in height so that aircraft wings, engines, and propellers will clear them, and landing strip markers and/or lights will remain visible.
5. The Airport must pass periodic inspections performed by a representative of the Office of Aeronautics for compliance with the rules of the Department of Transportation and for compliance with this Agreement. If the Airport is not so maintained, then no reimbursement will be made hereunder.
6. The State will reimburse the Recipient for 2/3 of the eligible maintenance and operation costs not reimbursed by any other source, not to exceed \$13,795.00 of State aid for each State fiscal year. If applicable, this base amount already includes the deduct for paint striping.
7. The Recipient may submit a breakdown of its incurred costs to the Director of the Office of Aeronautics, quarterly, on forms supplied by the Office of Aeronautics if said incurred costs total at least \$5,000.00 for the quarter. Costs are to be submitted as follows:
  - a. In October for the period July 1 through September 30.
  - b. In January for the period October 1 through December 31.
  - c. In April for the period January 1 through March 31.
  - d. In July for the period April 1 through June 30.

Final costs must be submitted to the Director of the Office of Aeronautics on or before August 1 for each State fiscal year ending June 30. No requests received after August 1 for the preceding State fiscal year will be honored by the State. The State reserves the right to reject items that may not be eligible for reimbursement, and reimbursement may be denied entirely if the Airport is not properly maintained in accordance with this Agreement.

8. The Recipient has established a zoning authority for the Airport, and such authority has completed, or is in the process of and will complete, with due diligence, an airport zoning ordinance in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Sections 360.061 to 360.074.
9. The State may immediately terminate or suspend this Agreement if the funds necessary to pay the State's share are not received from the Minnesota Legislature or other funding source. The State will provide notice of such lack of funding as soon as possible. Upon such termination or suspension, the State will pay the Recipient a pro-rata share for work performed prior to such notice, to the extent that funds are available.
10. Under Minnesota Statutes § 16C.05, subd. 5, the Recipient's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices relevant to this Grant Contract are subject to examination by the State and/or the State Auditor or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the end of this Grant Contract.
11. The Recipient and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes § Chapter 13, as it applies to all data provided by the State under this Grant Contract, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Recipient under this Grant Contract. The civil remedies of Minnesota Statutes § 13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Recipient or the State.

**State Encumbrance Verification**

Individual certifies that funds have been encumbered as required by Minnesota Statutes § 16A.15.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEP 22 2011

Purchase Order (PO) ID No: \_\_\_\_\_

18259

**MnDOT Contract Management**

as to form & execution

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient**

Recipient certifies that the appropriate person(s) have executed the Agreement on behalf of the Recipient as required by applicable resolutions, charter provisions or ordinances.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Aeronautics

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

7



**RESOLUTION**

**AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIRPORT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION**

It is resolved by the City of Paynesville as follows:

1. That the state of Minnesota Agreement No. 99278,

"Grant Agreement for Airport Maintenance and Operation," at the

Paynesville Municipal Airport is accepted.

2. That the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are  
(Mayor, Chairperson, President, etc.) (Clerk, Auditor, Secretary, etc.)

authorized to execute this Agreement and any amendments on behalf of the

City of Paynesville.

**CERTIFICATION**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of the Recipient)

at an authorized meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Clerk or Equivalent)

CORPORATE SEAL

/OR/

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

8

Prepared by Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Updated: 9/1/2011

**(PEX) - Paynesville Municipal Airport**

**5-YEAR AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ACIP)**

Federal Entitlement Balance FY 2012: \$214,891

**\*\*ALL COSTS BASED ON ESTIMATES USING 2011 PRICES**

State	Fed	Description	Funding Participation			Project Cost	Federal Entitlement Funding	Other Federal Funding	State Funding	Local Funding	Other Programs	Local Project Priority	Project Bid Date	Federal Entitlement Balance
FY	FY		FAA %	State %	Local %									
2012		Update Airport Zoning	0%	70%	30%	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	1	5/15/2012	\$214,891
2012		Construct Runway 11/29 Lighting Improvements - PAPI's, REIL's	95%	0%	5%	\$ 207,000	\$ 196,650	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,350	\$ -	2	5/15/2012	\$18,241
<b>FY 2013 Entitlement Balance:</b>													<b>\$168,241</b>	
2013		Conduct Environmental Assessment Study for Parallel Taxiway (Tier I)	95%	0%	5%	\$ 68,000	\$ 64,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,400	\$ -	1	-	\$103,641
2013		Acquire Land for Hangar Area (Parcel 13)	0%	70%	30%	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49,000	\$ 21,000	\$ -	2	5/15/2013	\$103,641
<b>FY 2014 Entitlement Balance:</b>													<b>\$253,641</b>	
2014		Construct Airport Beacon	95%	0%	5%	\$ 70,000	\$ 66,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ -	1	5/15/2014	\$101,741
2014		Conduct Environmental Assessment Study for Parallel Taxiway (Tier II)	95%	0%	5%	\$ 62,000	\$ 58,900	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,100	\$ -	2	-	\$42,841
<b>FY 2015 Entitlement Balance:</b>													<b>\$192,841</b>	
2015		Construct T-Hangar Site, Taxiways	95%	0%	5%	\$ 448,000	\$ 425,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,400	\$ -	1	7/15/2015	-\$232,759
2015		Construct 10-Unit T-Hangar Building	95%	0%	5%	\$ 688,000	\$ 653,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,400	\$ -	1	7/15/2015	-\$886,359
<b>FY 2016 Entitlement Balance:</b>													<b>-\$736,359</b>	
2016		Construct Parallel Taxiway to 3,300 feet	95%	0%	5%	\$ 1,630,000	\$ -	\$ 1,548,500	\$ -	\$ 81,500	\$ -	1	4/15/2016	Discretionary / Apportionment
<b>FY 2016 Entitlement Balance:</b>													<b>\$150,000</b>	
2017		Rehabilitate Pavement (Mill & Overlay) - Runway 11/29, Taxiway, Apron, Taxiway	95%	0%	5%	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,370,000	\$ -	\$ 80,000	\$ -	1	4/15/2017	Discretionary / Apportionment
<b>Summary for Airport = Paynesville Municipal Airport</b>						<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 4,843,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,615,850</b>	<b>\$ 2,918,500</b>	<b>\$ 49,000</b>	<b>\$ 259,650</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		

9

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, April 11, 2012

- 8:00 – 5:00 Registration
- 9:30 – Mayo Clinic Tour (meet in the Doubletree Hotel lobby; tour will last 45-60 minutes)
- 10:00 – 5:00 Exhibit Setup
- 12:00 – 1:30 Opening Luncheon
  - Welcome – Orville Brede, Mayor, City of Rochester
  - Chris Roy, Director, MnDOT Aeronautics
  - Speaker: Dr. Yaszemski, Mayo Clinic
- 1:45 – 2:45 Session: MnDOT Update
- 2:45 – 3:45 Session: FAA Update
- 3:45 – 4:45 MCOA Annual Meeting
- 5:00 – 7:30 Social Hour/Visit Exhibitors – Cash Bar & Hors d'oeuvres

### Thursday, April 12, 2012

- 7:00 – 8:45 Buffet Breakfast
- 8:00 – 8:45 MCOA Board Breakfast Meeting
- 8:00 – 5:00 Registration
- 8:00 – 3:15 Exhibits Open
- 9:00 – 10:00 Session: Essentials of Airport Business Management
  - TBA
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break/Visit Exhibitors
- 10:30 – 11:30 Session: CIP Finance Workshop
  - TBA
- 11:30 – 11:45 Session: AirTAP Update
  - Jim Grothaus
- 12:00 – 1:30 Buffet Luncheon
  - Speaker: Steve Busch, MAC
- 1:45 – 2:45 Session: SASP Presentation
  - MnDOT
- 2:45 – 3:15 Break/Visit Exhibitors
- 3:15 – 4:15 Session: UAV Demonstration
  - Randy Willis, FAA Washington D.C.
- 4:15 – 5:00 Session: GA Airport Security
  - Tim Anderson, MAC
- 5:00 – 6:00 Social Hour/Cash Bar
- 6:00 – 8:00 Banquet
  - FAA/Governor's Award
  - Speaker: Governor Mark Dayton

### Friday, April 13, 2012

- 7:00 – 8:15 Buffet Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:00 MCOA General Awards
- 9:00 – 10:00 Session: MAC Update
  - Jeff Hamiel
- 10:00 – 10:30 Session: Airport Emergency Plan
  - TBA
- 10:30 – 11:00 Session: FAA Great Lakes Region Update
  - Barry Cooper
- 11:00 – 12:00 Wrap Up/Grand Prize Drawing

## Ron Mergen

---

**From:** William Cowden [rv8n222bc@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 8:24 AM  
**To:** Ron Mergen  
**Subject:** RE: 2012 Paynesville Air-Show!  
**Attachments:** Darrel01.jpg; Yak03.jpg

Do you have the date secured yet? In 2010 we did the show for \$1000 each plus fuel flying two seperate performances. We are willing to do the same as we understand tight budgets and a poor economy. For anadditional \$500 each we would add the formation act at each performance. As usual we will have posters to sign for the kids of all ages.

Thanks,  
Bill Cowden

---

**From:** Ron@paynesvillemn.com  
**To:** rv8n222bc@hotmail.com  
**Date:** Mon, 3 Oct 2011 08:46:50 -0500  
**Subject:** RE: 2012 Paynesville Air-Show!

Bill, I will present this at our next commission meeting ! can you give me a price ? thanks Ron

---

**From:** William Cowden [mailto:rv8n222bc@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 8:05 PM  
**To:** Ron Mergen  
**Subject:** 2012 Paynesville Air-Show!

Hi Ron, just checking in to see if Paynesville was planning an air-show in 2012? Darel Massman and I are planning our schedule and would sure like to work with you again. I have amped up my show quite a bit from the RV-8, I am now flying an unlimited Russian Yak-55M which is a real crowd pleaser. Darrel and I have also been working on a formation routine which adds a very cool perspective. Please let me know if we can help!

Thanks,  
Bill Cowden  
Menomonie, WI  
218-329-1307

# Minnesota Council of Airports (MCOA)

644 Bayfield Street, Suite #120  
St. Paul, MN 55107

## News Update for January 2012

**The MCOA December Board . . .** met in joint session with MNDOT, MBAA and city/county/airport and elected representatives from around the region at the Bemidji Event Center. MNDOT reviewed the SASP, as currently envisioned, and many comments (both positive and negative) were provided from the attendees. **The next MCOA Board meeting will be Friday, January 13, 2011, 9:30 AM, at MNDOT.**

**A Day at the Capitol . . .** Be sure and mark your calendar to attend the "Aviation Day at the Capitol" event scheduled for February 9, 2012. This is a very important day to meet with your legislators and discuss aviation issues and your concerns regarding future funding. A detailed flyer will be sent to you soon outlining the day's activities that have been arranged for you.

**The MCOA Scholarship Program. . .** application criteria and forms have been dispatched and now include accredited colleges and universities offering either a certificated two year program or four year universities offering a degree program in Aviation Management. Be sure and check to see if you are eligible and submit your completed package within the time specified.

**The MCOA 2012 Membership Drive . . .** has begun with membership invoices being e mailed in early December. If you don't receive an invoice, contact [genavcon@charter.net](mailto:genavcon@charter.net)

**2012 Conference planning. . .** is progressing well ahead of schedule with the program almost complete. The Rochester Mayo Civic Center venue will allow for expanded equipment displays and more exhibitor displays. Notable guest speakers have been identified for both luncheons and the Governor is expected to attend the banquet and present the FAA Governor's Award. Mark your calendar for April 11 – 13<sup>th</sup> in 2012 to attend the annual conference.

**"Safest Year Yet". . .** in air travel. 2011 is on track to be the safest year ever for airlines around the globe, with one passenger fatality per 7.1 million air travelers. "Safety is improving, and it's improving faster than the industry is expanding," said Paul Hayes, Director of Safety at consulting firm Ascend. The previous record for safety was set in 2004, with one passenger fatality per 6.4 million air travelers.

**Business Travel to Rebound . . .** Business is likely to rebound slightly in 2012, analysts say. "Companies are still sending people on the road, and they are making lots of trips," said Adam Weissenbeg, a Deloitte Vice Chairman and travel sector consultant. The European debt crisis has affected business travel to Europe, but international travel to Brazil, China and Russia is strong, he says.

**New Rules for Ticket Prices . . .** will begin this month. A new federal law will require airlines to include all taxes and fees in the advertised ticket price. Carriers must also disclose baggage fees at the time a traveler books a ticket and notify travelers promptly of cancellations or delays of more than 30 minutes.

**Contract Control Tower Funding . . .** is being targeted for cuts. The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is pressuring the FAA to eliminate funding for the contract towers serving GA-only airports under across-the-board cuts to federal agencies, to be included in President Obama's Fiscal 2013 budget request.

**FAA Clarifies Flight Training Rules . . .** The FAA has clarified its 2009 rule on Part 61 flight training. Examiners who conduct tests for the sport-pilot certificate are not required to have a medical certificate. Examiners are required to hold a U.S. driver's license.

**FAA Creates Laser Strike Reporting Web Site . . .** The FAA has launched a web site to report laser strikes on aircraft, which has rose from about 300 in 2005 to 3,129 as of November 25<sup>th</sup>. The FAA said major metropolitan areas report the highest number of laser strikes. The agency announced that it would impose civil penalties of up to \$11,000 for people who point lasers at aircraft cockpits.

**GA Wins in Appropriations Bill . . .** President Obama will soon sign the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012. The bill contains two hard fought provisions for general aviation, language that helps protect the GPS system from interference by a proposed wireless network, and language that provides funding for veteran's readjustment benefits to include flight training.

**Airports to Calm Traveling Children . . .** U.S airports are taking steps to reduce stress and calm traveling children by providing children places to run and play and burn off the excess energy that can make air travel unbearable. "At least 30 of the nation's major airports have (or will soon have) play areas, and some airlines have installed play spaces within their own terminals," Colleen McBrinn (MSNBC) writes.

**Minnesota Pilots Donate Aircraft . . .** Minnesota pilots Walt & Raeanna Gislason donated a plane to Bahama Habitat, a non-profit organization. The Gislasons donated a Piper Aztec to help the non-profit in its disaster relief work in the Bahamas and Caribbean. "Donating aircraft is quick and easy and generates real money for the donor in the form of reduced taxes or refunds, so it can be a very viable solution for owners wishing to sell or dispose of their aircraft and get an immediate return," said John Armstrong, President of Bahamas Habitat.

***"The three secrets of success in public speaking are: be sincere, be brief, and be seated."***