

MINUTES AIRPORT COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

Chairperson Bert Stanley called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Members present were Steve Brown, Troy Caldwell, Gene Beavers, Ron Mergen (5:30 p.m.), and Steve Whitcomb. Also present were Chuck DeWolf, Bolton & Menk, Inc; Jennifer Welling, Administrative Assistant; Stephanie Hormann, Cable Coordinator; and Renee Eckerly, City Administrator.

Motion was made by Whitcomb to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2010 Airport Commission Meeting. Seconded by Brown and unanimously carried.

GRANT

DeWolf has been researching and found the bill that was created for the Willmar Airport, but has not found where it became law. Eckerly will contact Senator Fischbach's office for help. This will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

2011 FLY IN

The Commission reviewed what Hector and Glencoe were doing at their fly-ins and it did not appear that they did an air show. The Commission is looking for something new each year. Brown has attended the Glencoe Fly-In and commented that there was nothing more than planes and breakfast. Mahoney has been to some that have had a car show with the Fly-In. Caldwell had not attended any that offer something other than a breakfast.

PILOT COMPLAINT

The Commission discussed if there was an incentive to pay ahead. Eckerly stated that the pilot that has the complaint is habitually late with his payment. It was suggested to give the pilots an incentive to pay early so the City staff would not have to invoice each pilot on a monthly basis. Eckerly stated that there are only two pilots that don't pay on time and have to be monitored. The T-Hangar Agreement states the penalty and the City Attorney is having staff return the check to the pilot. There was further discussion on sending out bills three months ahead or stop rejecting the check and bill the late fee on the next bill. Eckerly reported that the City has waived one late fee for this pilot already. Stanley stated that the pilot with the complaint has stopped buying fuel here because of this issue. It was stated that this pilot is always 30 – 45 days late; while all the other pilots are timely with their payments. Eckerly stated that by providing an incentive the City would lose revenue. Stanley stated that this loss would help offset office time and it might be a breakeven. Mahoney stated that if an incentive is given it should be given across the board. It was asked how may pilots pay annually, semi-annually, etc. There was some discussion on prorating the fees if a pilot leaves. Mahoney was not aware of any airport giving a pay early incentive.

The next agenda will provide a payment schedule and how the pilots are billed and have the City Attorney draft new language for the Agreement.

FRIENDS OF THE AIRPORT

It was suggested to keep this on future agendas. Eckerly suggested advertising this in the City's newsletter, on the City's web site, and put an ad in the newspaper to contact Steve Whitcomb if any person is interested in being a Friend of the Airport. This would be a new organization to take over the Fly-In and breakfast with funds to be used for future air shows.

INFORMATIONAL

MCOA newsletter was presented. It was noted that the storm water permit is complete. One pilot has moved out of his hangar; however, there is another interested party. It was asked if the farmer is staying off the taxi way. It was commented that he was, but there is a lot of mud on the road going into the airport.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.