

Pella Airport Committee Meeting Minutes June 26, 2020

Members Present: Rick Gritters, Dave Barnes, Tom Vander Linden, Ted Zylstra, Matt Hutchinson, Sid Pinney

Members Absent: Dave Erickson

Others Present: Shane Vande Voort

Approval of Minutes: Previous minutes from May 15th had been unanimously approved via e-mail prior to the June 2nd Pella City Council meeting.

New Business:

Discussion of current request presented to City Council to allocate \$69,000 for improvements of the large east hangar during Policy & Planning portion of June 2nd Pella City Council meeting

- Insulation, heating, lighting

Still waiting on release of funds from city, to begin project. Several ongoing tenant lease discussions at the airport have slowed the decision on funding.

The delay of this request for funding for another month, will push out the process into 2021, and not allow the improvements to coincide with the current 60 day airport closure, scheduled for August 3rd thru October 2nd.

Proposal: To make a resolution to bring before the Pella City council at the July 7th meeting stating the following:

- Due to the overwhelming support from the Pella City Council during the Policy and Planning portion of the June 2nd meeting, the Pella Airport Committee formally requests that the city allocate \$69,000 for the improvements requested to enhance the functionality of the east hangar, and that the funds be made available in a timely manner, so that the work can coincide with the airport closure and the aforementioned hangar being vacated during that period.

Motion: Brought to the floor by Tom VL, 2nd Ted Z.

Passed Unanimously

Regional Airport: Update by Dave B

- Nothing new to report other than there was a meeting with the Mahaska County board of supervisor over proposed road closures.

FBO Challenges due to COVID-19

The reduction of flight operations in 2020 due to COVID-19 has impacted pilot services, and fuel sales, which has created financial challenges for the FBO – Classic Aviation. With the scheduled airport closure in August, this financial stress on the FBO will only increase. Classic aviation has proactively located additional maintenance space, at the Oskaloosa airport, but will still be severely impacted by the loss of fuel sales for this period.

Classic Aviation is putting together a financial impact statement to present to the city manager, for consideration to be compensated by the city during the closure period.

FAA funding due to COVID-19 has increased the Federal funding of the runway improvement project by 10%, which has resulted in the city receiving an additional \$130,000 for this project.

Airport Managers report to the committee: By Shane Vande Voort

COVID mitigation practices in place

Wildlife fence is coming to completion, the entrance and gates are being completed this week.

- Fence perimeter will be sprayed for weed control
- Entrance gate needs signage/markings

Runway closure is now officially scheduled for Aug 3rd – October 2nd

Line and grounds equipment is operational

Hangar and ramp space is still lacking

Two turbine aircraft have left the field due to lack of hangar space.

A summary regarding possible future events happening at KPEA was provided to the members.

Final Comments:

Tom VL recognized and thanked Sid Pinney for taking the lead on understanding the COVID-19 CARES act funding and presenting at the City Council on behalf of the needs at the airport.

Part of the reason to go back to monthly meetings, is to keep our needs in front of the council and being able to communicate those needs in a timely manner when necessary.

No further comments by committee members.

Adjourn: Motion by Tom VL. & 2nd by Dave B.

Passed unanimously

Next regular meeting will take place on Friday, July 31, 2020.