

MINUTES OF THE LOWELL AIRPORT BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022 AT 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Grimm. Lori Gerard called roll.

Present: Tom Grimm, Paul Nicholls, Eric Nelson and Jeff Ostrander

Absent: Jeff Altoft, Jim Myaard and David Pasquale

Also Present: Bob Bourgette, Bruce Whitman, Peter Draaisma, Greg VanStrien, Rob Dykstra, Dr. Bobbie, Alex Taylor, Casey Brown and Lori Gerard

2. APPROVAL OF ABSENCES

Grimm moved and Nelson seconded to approve the absence of Altoft, Myaard and Pasquale. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Grimm moved and Nelson seconded to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Grimm moved and Nicholls seconded to approve the minutes of December 8, 2021 as written. Motion carried.

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Brown noted that Scenic Expressions was paid in December and February for the snow plowing contract.

Grimm moved and Nelson seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bourgette questioned if the airport would be rolled again this spring. Brown commented that he was planning on that.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Two questionnaires were presented with the agenda packet for board to review. Brown commented that the first year we sent out these questionnaires we got about 12 back and now only 2.

Brown stated that there is a big tree on 30 that is encroaching the airspace. He is working with MDOT and Vergennes Township to adopt the zoning language from 2014.

Brown stated he is trying to get pricing from Kent County Road Commission for a new surface and crack fills.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Grimm moved and Nelson seconded to approved the 2022 Airport Board meeting dates as presented. Motion carried.

9. BOARDMEMBERS COMMENTS.

Ostrander noted that he received a call from Vergennes Township Supervisor Tim Wittenbach asking who the Vergennes Township rep is on our board. It was noted that the board must be comprised of 4 city residents and 3 others that may or may not be from the city. Nicholls, Ostrander and Brown stated they all live in Vergennes Township. Brown stated that he would be glad to give Wittenbach updates.

10. ORB AEROSPACE - ALEX TAYLOR

Taylor stated that a lot was happening at ORB. They have 12 staff members and will be adding 5 new this year. Taylor noted that windows are being added to their building. Partnerships have been formed with University of Michigan, the Navy and Augusta Westland. It was also noted that Taylor recently received recognition as a Thiel Fellow, which is a 2 year grant program which encourages young people with developing new businesses and technology.

Taylor also introduced Dr. Bobbie who shared his health vision in connections to ORB.

11. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Snow removal update – Brown stated that snow removal has gone well so far and plowing has been done in a reasonable amount of time.
- b. Spring preparations – Brown said that the airport drains pretty quickly with the melting of snow. Taylor noted that a drain was found that he didn't know existed. Brown stated that he will plan to aerate the grass before Bourgette gets the roller.
- c. April cleanup day - Brown noted that he was looking at mid to late April for a cleanup day. Some of the items on the list for that day include: removing ceiling in the annex, runway bulbs, new windsock and just general cleaning.

Grimm moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Lori Gerard