

## LEMHI COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD MINUTES

June 12, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 18:02 by Board Chairman, Robert Schick. Board members in attendance were James Crawford, Vice Chairman, Richard Natelson, secretary, and Charles LaMoure, treasurer, and Jeff Sheets. Wade Ayada was present by telephone.

Other people in attendance were James Carroll, Tim Vernell, from Gem Air, , Lenny and Ilona Skunberg, Jim Miteski, Jim Palukas, and Dick Williams.

Rob asked for a motion to approve the May minutes. The motion was made by Charles and seconded by Jim. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Fuel and facilities report**

James stated that there are approximately 3919 gallons of Jet A to sell and 5405 gallons of Avgas. James talked about getting signs for the automatic gate (gate 3) telling the fuel trucks to use gate 2. It is a much better for wider turns for the fuel trucks. He would also like a sign at the fuel farm for ladders to instruct people who are using the ladders to kindly put them back. He also stated that he got a lot of mowing done but it is still not finished mainly due to all the rain the Airport has received.

James also stated that he would like to see a couple of Board members learn the fuel farm so that James could get help when he is not available. Things have been going well.

Rob asked whether James got in touch with the locksmith for the gate between Gem and McCall Air. James stated that he did not. Jim interjected that locksmith company has changed owners and that they are supposed to get in touch with James. Rob asked about the pieces for repair of the fuel farm. James stated that he replaced the tube as needed. He did not get a chance to reassemble the reel but he has all the necessary parts. He feels he should be able to put on the new grounding strap tomorrow. The new grounding strap will be 40 feet long. It was supposed to have been that long originally but it was not. Rich asked if the company who installed the reel should have been responsible for this being that they supplied a grounding strap that was much shorter. Rob stated that is true but he believes that it is out of the warranty period. Rob stated he would look into it. Rob stated that he will order the fuel filters that will need to be replaced this summer.

### **Financial report**

Charles stated that 75% of the year is gone as far as the budget is concerned. The new budget has been turned into the County. Total expenditures have been 584,914 dollars. Total income: \$ 605,475. The Board has had roughly 43% of the income received. The budget is pretty much where it should be except for fuel sales. He expects that the avgas revenue will increase during the summer. Utilities and telephone are a little higher than expected. He does not know the reason for the slight increase. The Board had increased the budget for this by approximately 15% but it may not be sufficient. These numbers will need to be looked at again.

Rob stated that the County did pay for the equipment needed for Leadore airport. It was approximately \$3600. This amount came in under the estimate which was \$8000.

### **Commissioner Update**

Jim and Rob went to the commissioners meeting in the morning. They told them about the awesome ceremony that was held out at the Airport for Lenny and Dick. The Wright Brothers award was given to Dick Williams for 50 years of flying and the Charlie Taylor award was given to Lenny Skunberg for 50 years of airplane mechanics. The awards were presented by the FAA. Rob states that he also received some phone calls of people complaining of airplanes flying too low. He said that some of these calls were received when Gem Air was having their breakfast. Rob informed these people that the Airport is not responsible for this. Rich stated that airplanes are allowed to fly as low as 200 feet above the ground over nonpopulated areas.

### **Public Comments:**

Dick Williams stated that he was at this meeting representing district 6 of the Idaho Aircraft Association. He stated that the IAA donates cars around the state for use at the airport. They have a 2005 Chevy trailblazer that they would like to donate to the Airport. There is a memorandum of understanding that has been sent out. It basically states that the IAA donates the vehicle but the Airport picks up the expenses and insurance. Rob stated that he apologized for not having Dick on the agenda as had been requested. The Board was happy to accept the donation.

Jimmy Miteski stated that they are going ahead with a Fourth of July celebration at Leadore airport. He stated he needed to know if the Board plans on opening the cross wind runway. He also asked if the Board plans on increasing the visibility of the windsock at that airport. Jim thinks it is a big issue. It is not very visible from the air. Rich stated that there is not a lot the Board can do because Leadore airport is controlled by the County. The Board does not have a budget for Leadore. In the new budget there will be but not in the present budget.

Jim asked whether the County will mow it or not. The Board did not have the answer. Jim stated that he will again mow it this year because the grass is high. Dick interjected that the IAA has also donated 500 pounds of grass seed for that airport.

### **Leadore Airport**

Charles stated that H and K is planning to be here in September. They will be putting in the new helipad on County property. Jim asked what will happen with the old helipad. Rob stated that it will probably just sit there unless the property owners request that it be removed. Jim does not think the new one will be used because the older one is in a better location.

The closed runway was discussed. Rob stated that because people go in there with different size tires on their airplanes and smoothness of the runway depends on the type of tires, the County has decided at this point in time, to keep the crosswind runway closed. Rob told Curt Rosen with Road and Bridge not to grade the other runway. It is believed that shovel work can take care of the holes in the runway.

Jim and Dick were allowed to speak: They stated that the closed runway is as smooth as the airstrip in May. They spoke with University of Idaho Shannon Williams, and she stated that the runway should not be graded because it would produce nothing but weeds. The root system that is already present under the runway help to prevent the runway from turning to mud when it rains. They also spoke to the conservation service and they concurred. The best way it was felt, is to seed the runway.

Visibility of the windsock was also discussed. It was decided that rocks can be placed around the windsock and the rocks can be painted white.

### **AIRPORT GATES**

The Board has a bid for the gates. The FAA has approved the construction of the new gate and the replacement of the present automatic gate. The bid came from Ray's. According to T O Engineers, the only thing the Board is waiting on is a Buy American certificate that needs to be completed by Ray's. The gate construction and asphalt were discussed.

### **Sale of Hangar.**

Ken Linn sold his hangar. The buyer did not come to the Airport Board to discuss it. The new buyer is David Reeves. He knows he has to have a new lease, provide insurance, and present a bill of sale. Rob discussed this with Teresa as well. Because he does not have a lease as of yet, no action is necessary. Charles made a motion to table the subject. The motion was seconded by Jim. The Board voted unanimously to table the transaction.

### **Gem Air Parking**

Tim asked to be on the agenda this month. He was wondering if there is a way to consider directing transient traffic to transient parking in one direction and to have FBO parking in the other direction. This way if a pilot needed FBO services they would go in one direction versus

parking in the other direction. The reason this has become a concern of Gem Air is because of the increase in people and traffic.

In the past, Gem Air has provided their own chains for tiedown's for their customers. When people are told that they can park anywhere on the Airport, and if they use one of the tiedown spots that has their chains, they feel really awkward about approaching the pilot and telling them that those are Gem Air chains. He was wondering if there is something that could be done in the interim.

Tim is also concerned about one of the clients or boaters hitting into the McCall fuel trucks that are parked near McCall Air.

Rob responded initially concerning the tiedown's: Lemhi County does have a Lemhi County Airport tiedown permit. Gem Air has not signed their leases nor have they signed the commercial operator's agreement. When Gem Air decides to sign the permit and the commercial lease, further discussion can be carried out between the County and Gem Air.

Rich states there is more than one FBO at the Airport. Rich opined that each FBO should have designated spots and that the FBO's should pay for those spots. That is the reason for the tiedown permit.

Further discussion ensued.

Rich feels that the problem will be solved when each FBO leases tie down's spots on the Airport. At this point, transients can park where they want because there are no designated tiedown spots.

It was not felt that any action needed to be taken concerning the tie down spots.

Rich stated that McCall Air was told quite a while ago, to move their fuel trucks. Rob stated that the safety requirements are that the fuel truck must be fifty feet from a building and clear of the taxiways.

Further discussion ensued.

Charles made the motion to table the Gem Air parking situation and perform more research.

Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 19:04h

.

