

MEETING NOTICE
GRANITE COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 7:00 P.M.
GRANITE COUNTY HOSPITAL BUILDING, PHILIPSBURG, MONTANA 59858
(Yellow building located across the street from main entrance)

Present:

Ernie Fulk

Dave Lee

Donovan Jones

Mike Thompson

Nathan Schroht (KLJ)

1. Call to order – 19:19
2. Business:
 - a. Darcy Schindler, Drummond Field Report. – Not present, airport is in order, need one more mowing before end of season, county is requested to mow Drummond as well as Riddick Field. Mike Thompson will coordinate this request.
 - b. Update to Master Plan Document and current status of FAA upgrade review (KLJ).
 - I. Issue with clearing approach on 16 and 34 ends per part 77. Hillside of Rumsey Rd is an issue on the 34 end, Airport Rd on the 16 end. Part 77 surface is the regulation. Proposed solution is to add obstruction lights on the 34 end and a 200' displaced threshold on the 16 end. These options were approved by the board.
 - II. Existing access road encroaches on ALP area. Propose moving road east to clear the ALP area. This was approved by the board, Ernie Fulk will coordinate with DNRC. KLJ would be providing engineering for road relocation. Discussion included extending existing softball field access road into airport area to not disturb existing walking trail.
 - III. What is the schedule forecast from KLJ:
 - i. EDO meeting scheduled for end of October, Information about the Riddick Field will be available during this meeting. Master plan is nearly complete, once complete, this will generate a signed ALP. Board needs to see progress on project from KLJ, Board is expecting to have construction start spring of 2024. This would mean that the

plan needs to be approved, permits issued, and RFP's issued to contractors Winter 2023.

- ii. Hangar 11 exemption will also need to be included in the approved master plan.

IV.

- c. Tiny home real estate development.
 - I. Developer is proposing building tiny homes along Airport Rd to the East of the existing airport access road. Ernie Fulk to contact DNRC to negotiate agreement to lease property to county and annex into airport property.
- d. Airport beacon replacement.
 - I. Beacon was destroyed in a wind event in SEP2022. Donovan Jones will develop a solution for replacement that suits the county. KLJ to provide guidance on funding opportunities, location, and engineering support.
- e. Summer fire fighting activities.
 - I. Fire crew was on site about 2 weeks (small crew). All went well. County received \$3,600 for use of the airport facility.
- f. Actions taken for airport closure on 31AUG23.
 - I. Approximately 7:45 pm aircraft struck deer on runway.
 - II. Approximately 8:00 pm Airport Manager was informed.
 - III. Approximately 8:05 pm NOTAM ISSUED to close airport.
 - i. Call WX Brief to issue NOTAM
 - ii. Ernie Fulk to add Donovan Jones to approved list with FAA
 - IV. Approximately 8:15 pm deer carcass and main large prop pieces were removed from runway.
 - V. Initial runway cleanup completed by 8:45 pm.
 - VI. Approximately 8:50 pm County Commissioners and County Attorney notified of accident.
 - VII. Morning of 1SEP23 runway was hand cleaned during daylight hours.
 - VIII. NOTAM updated 1SEP23 and airport reopened.
 - IX. County road sweep conducted on runway after holiday.
- g. Courtesy car repair for (Honda Pilot electrical issues).
 - I. Vehicle is presenting an intermittent electrical issue (won't start). Propose selling vehicle to fund maintenance of Jeep if possible. KLJ to provide guidance on how to sell vehicle since it was donated by MT Aeronautics.
- h. Riddick Field Sign and general maintenance.
 - I. Donovan Jones to add posts at each side to secure sign. Donovan Jones to source and procure tools and procedure to replace segmented circle windsock (tilt down pole). Ernie to provide existing airport SOP's, Donovan Jones to develop a common / secure repository to store airport information. Sign in sheet is not working, document is repetitively removed from the airport. Dave Lee to manage the sign in sheet, data to be scanned and added to the repository.

- i. Introduction of airport safety improvements with high fencing to prohibit animals from entering the runway area, brush, and grass removal.
 - I. Fencing was requested 2-3 years ago, however, cost was too high. Mowing would provide a reasonable means of mitigation as wildlife would be easier seen adjacent to the runway and less likely to be grazing on cut grass. Mike Thompson to coordinate with road maintenance supervisor to mow Riddick Field and Drummond.
3. Open Floor for Public Comment.
 - a. No public present
4. Schedule next regular meeting.
 - a. 18OCT2023 at 19:00, same location + ZOOM
5. Adjournment – 20:56