

Minutes of the Granite County Airport Advisory Board
April 4, 2023. 7:00 PM
Yellow Conference Room Building
Granite County Medical Center
Philipsburg MT.

In Attendance: Ernie Fulk (chair)
Dave Sansome (vice chair)
Dave Lee
Mike Thompson

Absent Members: Darcy Schindler
Paul O’Leary

Guests: None

A quorum of the board was present.

The meeting was called to order by Ernie Fulk at 7:10 PM

Current Business: Riddick Field Renovation:
Chairman Fulk reports that he has been in regular contact with KLJ Engineering
The updated Master Plans with supporting documents are now posted on the website:
<http://riddickfield.airportplan.net>

KLJ has submitted all the required paperwork to the FAA for funding approval but the FAA has not yet responded. It is expected that this response will come later in 2023 so that construction will most likely begin in the Spring of 2024.

Chairman Fulk plans to commission a “Wetlands” environmental impact study this Summer of the areas where the new hangar construction is planned in anticipation that it may be requested by the FAA or some other agency and could cause construction delays if not done ahead of time.

New Business: Meeting Location in Philipsburg and Zoom:
The Hospital Conference center continues to be available for future Philipsburg meetings. It was suggested to try using Zoom instead of a physical location for the next meeting so people don’t have to drive so far. Dave Lee will host the Zoom meeting when the time is determined.

Request for a grass runway strip:
Chairman Fulk received an inquiry from an aviator that uses “Tundra Tires” and would prefer to land on grass rather than on asphalt so as to reduce wear on these tires. The requested grass strip would run parallel along the length of the Riddick Field runway. After some investigation it was determined that the cost to prepare the ground would be at least \$65K and the total cost would be around \$100K, not including routine maintenance of the grass. It was noted that it is too late to add such a feature to the Master Plan and, without grant funding from the FAA, it would be too expensive. Board member Mike Thompson made a motion to decline the request on these grounds. The vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Request for approval to lease Riddick field hangar lot #6

Ernie Fulk would like to lease hangar lot #6 and has plans to construct a hangar on it immediately. Dave Lee made a motion to approve the request. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Meeting Location:

Dave Lee offered to host future Philipsburg meetings of the board at the Granite County Medical Center conference facility, pending approval of the hospital CEO.

Board Position Open:

There is one open position on the Airport Advisory Board, if anyone is interested.

Motion to adjourn: 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Lee, 4/04/2023