

**City of Portage
Airport Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
City Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street
Conference Room One**

Members present: Rita Maass, Chairperson; Doug Klapper, Fred Langbecker, William Kutzke and David Tesch

Members excused: Barry Erath

Others present: Director Redelings, Manager Poppy, Wendy Hottenstein (BOA), Steve Johnson, Bill Welsh (Cable TV) and Craig Sauer (PDR)

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Motion by Kutzke, second by Tesch to approve the minutes. Motion passed 5 to 0 on call of the roll

3. Review ALP Report

Ms. Hottenstein described the ALP they received from the consultant and some of the inconsistencies they're finding with the electronic version that was also provided. She's uncomfortable disseminating the ALP until the review has been completed and the discrepancies resolved.

Kutzke suggested the City be provided a copy of the ALP for review. Ms. Hottenstein indicated the City would receive a copy for review, which would need to be signed by City officials prior to being forwarded to FAA for approval.

Maass inquired as to a priority schedule for obstacle removal. Ms. Hottenstein said the trees on Airport property should be removed. She intended to obtain waivers for other obstacles on Airport property.

The ALP also identifies many trees just beyond the Airport property boundary. She intends to seek a waiver for all obstructions off airport property. If a waiver is not given by FAA, then the City will need to obtain permission to remove the trees or potentially risk losing the instrument approach. She said the FAA doesn't have the authority to close an Airport, but they could withhold future federal funding or eliminate the instrument approach.

The commissioners were unclear as to the impact of not having instrument approach capabilities. With the possibility of the Airport remaining at it's current

location despite the obstacles, Tesch suggested using the built up funds to improve the Airport. Redelings suggested the FAA may start to impose other requirements at that time.

4. Discussion on development of long-term plan for airport

Redelings indicated there's apparently a deviation from the original goal of the ALP - whereby an identification of the magnitude of obstructions, in part, would result in the FAA agreeing to permit the City to relocate the Airport.

Maass indicated the current goal is to retain the Airport in it's current location.

Poppy said there's been interest from some aircraft related businesses to locate at the Portage Airport, but were concerned about the long term presence of the airport. He inquired if it was realistic to let potential businesses know that the airport would be here for at least 10 years. It was the consensus that even if the FAA supported a relocation of the Portage Airport, it would take at least 10 years for a new airport to be realized.

5. Airport monthly report/Manager's report

Poppy referred to his previously prepared report and indicated the airport is merely retaining the status quo during the winter with no on-going projects. He did express a concern/request that when a snow plow is on Silver Lake Drive, that they swing in and make 6 passes on the primary runway.

Maass indicated this practice changed several years ago when it was determined that the Arterial Streets should be the first priority. Redelings suggested that the snow plow driver could make the 6 passes when the snow removal was completed on the arterials and then complete the clean-up following the snow removal on the remainder of the streets.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Langbecker, second by Tesch to adjourn. Motion passed 5 to 0 on call of the roll. The meeting concluded at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Redelings, City Engineer/DPW