

I believe that there is some confusion about this Committee's action with regard to why things are done at this airport. First of all, I believe that this airport is a very important asset to our retaining business as well as recruiting new business into our area.

So many of these businesses use the airport by the air freight services offered at our airport. The airport also makes it easier for transporting employees and customers to these businesses. It is for these reasons I believe Menominee County decided to retain sponsorship and ownership of Menominee Regional Airport.

A secondary reason was to provide local pilots with a place to fly in and have a secure place to store their aircraft.

Some of our local pilots are confused in this understanding. This airport could never survive solely on revenues obtained by land leases and the small amount of fuel sales from this group.

A major source of revenue comes from landing fees and fuel sales from tourists and business. These revenues still do not currently provide this airport with revenues sufficient to maintain this airport.

Menominee County sees the benefit this airport gives to retain current business in our community which give our residents employment.

It is a fact that Menominee County will be required to make improvements to our current runways, taxiways, facilities, and equipment. Menominee County would never be able to justify this multi-million dollar expenditure if it was to only benefit approximately 35 local individuals. It is also true that we never could funds these expenditures without obtaining grants from the FAA and MDOT-Aero. In order to apply for these grants we must assure these governmental bodies that we will follow all rules and regulations set down by them.

In the past how to interpret these mandated rules and regulations were a bit 'hazy' which could risk us losing these grants. When Menominee County took over sole ownership of this airport these issues were brought to our attention.

Menominee County has, in a systematic way, taken steps to address these rules and regulations in order to remain compliant and assure that these grant monies from the FAA and State remain available.

By doing so we have "ruffled the feathers" of some local pilots. I am sad that some people don't understand that this airport is for the benefit of all the residents of Menominee County.

I ask that we all look at the big picture. Help us make this airport better. Understand that this airport exists because of its important to the businesses that use it and employs our residents. This is why Menominee County took on this responsibility instead of walking away as Marinette County.

To those who do not want to "get on board" with us in reaching our goals I suggest you follow through on your constant threats to leave this airport. I wish you good luck in finding a facility that will accept you!