

June 13, 2017

APPROVED on 6/27/17

Proceedings of a Public Input Meeting of the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Menominee and the State of Michigan were held at the Menominee County Annex, Stephenson, Michigan.

Vice-Chairman Cech called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A call of the roll indicated that the following Commissioners were present/absent:

**Present:** Com. Cech, Gromala, Hafeman, Lang, Nelson, Phelps, Piche, and Schei.

**Absent:** Com Meintz (excused).

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Piche to approve the agenda. Motion was approved 8-0.

**Business:**

- Public Input for the future of the Menominee County Airport – Discussion and response.
- Com. Schei - discussed that this Public Input Session is to discuss the future of the Menominee County Airport. The Board is looking into all of the options available to the County for funding and sponsorship of the Menominee County Airport.
- Wayne Beyer – Commented about the Twin County Pilots Association. He stated that it would be a big mistake to try and close the airport. Industry depends on the airport and if the airport is closed Menominee will be a ghost town in the next 10 years.
- Com. Schei – Stated that it is not the Boards intent to close the airport. The County needs to find funding for the airport. The revenue is flat and only comes in from fuel sales, leases and landing fees. The freight carrier that was here did not renew their contract. The proposed budget for the next year is going to require a \$151,000 appropriation from the General Fund.
- Wayne Beyer – Commented that the airport is a service. He also stated that the County needs to make the airport more attractive to the pilots and attract more pilots to use the airport.
- Com. Nelson – Commented that the County is not planning on closing the airport. The citizens that are upset should be going to Marinette County, the City of Marinette and the City of Menominee to ask them to help Menominee County fund the airport.

- Com. Gromala – Commented on the airport budget and the improvements that will need to be made there in the next 5 years.
- Com. Schei – Discussed the legal procedure that the County needs to follow to send a resolution to MDOT Aero. The County will need to put in a 5% share each year if we decide to go forward with the block grants. He also discussed other revenue sources like a solar farm or an airport park.
- Com. Piche – Commented on the positive impact that the last meeting had. The County now has the public’s attention and we are receiving input now.
- Com. Cech – Commented on the fact that the entire board is looking for a solution.
- Aaron Tunstra – Commented that the County should be putting a positive spin on the airport.
- Delores Conrad – Commented that there use to be a lot of promotion of the airport. We need to give the people a reason to come out there.
- Com. Hafeman – Commented that the Board is looking for solutions not to close the airport.
- Scott Harts – Commented that he is looking to buy an airplane and would like to be a pilot. He would not put his plane at this airport because of all the negative politics and current situation. He feels the County needs better leadership at the airport.
- Com. Nelson – Commented that it is easy for people to sit back and say the County doesn’t have a plan.
- Kathy Branz – Commented that if people want to see more promotion of the airport that they should take it upon themselves to do the steps necessary to make that happen.

Moved by Com. Nelson, seconded by Com. Hafeman to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Motion was approved 8-0.

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William Cech, Vice-Chairman

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Marc Kleiman, County Clerk