

Tri-County Airport Meeting

When: July 16, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.

Where: Tri-County Airport, E2525 County Road JJ, Spring Green, WI.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Stevens, with Commissioner Storti, Commissioner Valtierra, Commissioner McGuire, Commissioner Deal, Commissioner Polivka and Marc Higgs present. Also present were Richland County Chair Marty Brewer, town of Spring Green supervisor Dave Radel, Roger Petrick, Patrick Gavinski, Greg Jewel, Jared Pinkus and many local landowners. Commissioner Valtierra made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Polivka. The motion carried. Commissioner Storti made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Valtierra. The motion carried.

Item #6: Scheduled appearances. none

Item#7: Public Comment. Dave Radel spoke to the history of the Town of Spring Green involvement with the flooding issues.

Item#8: Communications. None

Item#9: Discussion on and paying of bills and vouchers.

Income received: \$8,152.51

Invoices paid: \$22,914.77

The income was from fuel sales and rent. The expense was 5% share of engineering for the runway and taxiway reconstruction done by Omni Associates paid to the Bureau of Aeronautics, repair to the air conditioner, utilities, postage, cleaning supplies, and a load of 100LL fuel. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to pay bills and vouchers, seconded by Commissioner Valtierra. The motion carried.

Item#10: Managers report. Marc reported on airport operations and flooding.

Item#11: Discussion and possible action on flood issues. Commissioner Polivka reported on a discussion he had with Wendy Hottenstein of the Bureau of Aeronautics about the possibility of getting Federal Aviation grant money for flood mitigation off the airport if the airport actually purchased the land used for that mitigation effort. Randy Hartung stated that Hartungs would not contribute to a solution unless the solution benefited everyone in the area. Commissioner McGuire asked why the emergency ditch was not flowing when all the fields and most the airport is under water. Richland County Highway Commissioner Roger Petrick explained that the ditches had partially filled in, the ditch on the south side of JJ had never been deep enough, and his department had no money to deal with it. Marc again stated that the culvert under County Line road is too small and water backs up onto the airport. Several airport tenants said there has to be a short term and a long term solution. A big project is needed as a permanent

solution for all but if a short term solution isn't acted on the airport may not survive the possibly three years it will take for the permanent solution. Nathan Burt offered to clean out the ditches on the sides of Highway JJ if Roger would give him permission to do so. Roger approved of him doing the work. Marty Brewer told Roger that the Richland County Board would back him up on this. Commissioner Stevens said this situation just comes and goes, when the area is flooded people want to do something and after it dries up all is put on hold. He said it is essential that a long term plan is put in motion. Greg Jewel said that a 30% plan is necessary to take it to where funding can be applied for. He said he has been in contact with Omnni Associates who are doing the engineering on airport grounds, the Bureau of Aeronautics, the D.N.R., and local utilities for a cooperation effort. Commissioner McGuire made a motion to approve looking into a temporary solution to improve the emergency ditch and improve the culvert under County Line Road, seconded by Commissioner Polivka. The motion passed. Commissioner Valtierra reported that he had spoken with his people at Cardinal Glass and they would be willing to help with the cost of the initial design work by Jewell. Commissioner Valtierra made a motion to contract with Jewell Associates for the design of the permanent ditch, seconded by Commissioner Polivka. The motion passed.

Item#12: Discussion and possible action on farmland rent. The Commission discussed that Jim Sprecher, who has farmed the airport for many years, paid rent last year although was unable to plant due to the flooding. He was unable to get into the fields this year either as the airport has been flooded all year. Commissioner Polivka made a motion to suspend the rent payment from Jim Sprecher until such time as he can actually farm that land on the airport, seconded by Commissioner Valtierra. The motion passed.

Commissioner Polivka made a motion to adjourn until August 20, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. at the airport, seconded by Commissioner Valtierra. The motion carried.

Marc Higgs