



Bentonville Municipal Airport  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 6, 2020, at 1:00 pm  
*Virtual Webinar via Zoom*

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Dr. Richard Ham - Chairman, Rick Simmons, Vice-Chairman, Mike Frost, Lisa Kelley, Dennis Cherry, and Aubrey Patterson.

Others Present: Dennis Birge, Dan Weese, Adam White, Chris Maestri, Chad Cox, Will Gunselman, Brian Baldwin, and Beverly Shepherd, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Richard Ham, Chairman

Chairman Richard Ham welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Old Business**

1. Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2020

Motion by Rick Simmons to approve the Minutes of the July 2, 2020 meeting. Second by Dennis Cherry. All were in favor and the Motion passed.

2. Update from Robin Fields and “Maverick”

Robin Fields reported that Maverick was doing very well. He is young, learning a lot, and he is pleased with his progress. He said that the geese, as expected, were coming back. They flushed out approximately 64 of them recently and chased them away. As of this day, they only saw seven of them.

Chad Cox gave praise to Robin and Maverick. He said he could not be happier with their progress at keeping the geese at bay, and that they have made a huge difference. He said they are working hard and becoming a part of the community at the airport.

3. Improvements for Hangar Access for Public Use (Recurring Item)

Chuck and Lisa reported they are mostly on hold for the moment. They are waiting on some more information, but they are looking at some private investors that might be helpful along the T-Hangar line.

However, Chuck said he is going to Aspen on the trip he is taking, and looking at some “open air T-hangars” or otherwise known as “patio shelters”, and possibly some things that are “out of the box”. He will be taking some pictures and videos to see if there are things that might be beneficial for the city.

At this time, Dr. Ham asked the status of the dirt mound project at airport property. He said that we could not do much until this is finished. Dan Weese said that they may have taken a few loads out, but it has not been anything substantial. He said at this point it does not look very promising that the contractor will get the dirt out of their by the expiration of the contract. If we have to do it ourselves, it will cost approximately \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00 to do that. Dennis Birge said he has talked with Alison Jumper before we went with the Chev’s`1 Trucking, but she is not as interested when he talked to her recently. The approximate expiration date on the contract is October 2020. They are going to keep looking for someone who would like to move the dirt, under the same contract as we did Chev’s Trucking. Dan Weese said there is approximately 109,000 cubic yards remaining.

## **New Business**

1. Engineering and Construction, *Adam White, Garver Engineers*
  - A. *Update on Current Projects*

Chris Maestri gave the updates today on our current project.

### East Taxiway Extension Project (South)

Chris mentioned this project is an FAA funded project. They went to bid in early May, and took that bid information and made a grant application. The city accepted a grant offer in mid-July and now they are moving forward. They are doing their final review, some construction contracts, and bonding paperwork that they got back from Tri-Star, before they send the final construction contracts over to the City for execution. Tri-Star is looking at late September or early October start time. That would set us up for end of February next year.

### East Taxiway Extension and Turnaround (North)

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, they finished paving the taxiway and the widening of the runway. They are in the final stretch of getting that completed. They are hoping everything is finished next week, and they can get everything closed out the week after that. Mr. Chadwick said that we have NOTAMs on this until about the 16<sup>th</sup> and asked if Chris thought they were okay on that. Chris said they would talk about this at tomorrow morning’s progress meeting. Chris will send an email to Chuck on what he needs to do about the NOTAMs.

### Access Tunnel

They are still awaiting the formal FAA review letter before we can move forward. Adam White said he talked with Kathy Franklin recently and she said she had talked to Dennis Birge as well. They have passed this through all the channels for anyone that would want to review this matter, and they have not received any negative feedback. We are hoping for an answer soon.

### Game Composite Hangar Facility

This project is on hold. The design is complete. They are just waiting on owner approval to move forward on the construction process.

#### Game Composite Maintenance Facility

This project is on hold, per owner request.

#### East Hangar Construction

This project is on hold per owner approval before moving forward with the construction process.

Mr. Chadwick mentioned that they are now in discussion regarding the Through the Fence Agreement regarding Game Composite Maintenance Facility. He said that they had a meeting and that it was very favorable. He said that he hopes to bring back more information on that in the very near future.

### 2. City of Bentonville, *Charles Chadwick, Airport Manager*

Mr. Chadwick wanted to tell the Board that there was an aircraft accident last Saturday evening at the airport. There were no injuries. A Cessna 206 did what they call “porpoised” and on the third time it hit the nose blew and the tire blew causing the aircraft to divert over to the left over to the grass strip area. When the nose went down, it dug in and the aircraft flipped over.

Mr. Chadwick said that the FBO was tremendous at getting in touch with him. He was able to get a NOTAM out to shut down the runway, just as the Mayor and Police Chief contacted him. He then left his home in Fayetteville and came to Bentonville. He noted that Chad Cox and Will Gunselman from the FBO were there, and working with a company to get the aircraft removed so they could open the runway back up. It took a couple of hours, but given the seriousness of the event, it did not take as long as they thought. Mr. Chadwick commended the FBO and Chad in their reaction to getting in touch with him as quickly as they did, and for helping to get the aircraft off the runway. There was the pilot and one passenger, and no injuries.

Dr. Ham asked about any damage to lighting or damage enough to have to regrade. Mr. Chadwick said that there was no damage to the lighting. He said that there was a small trench area (less than 4 inches deep). He does not know if it will need to be regraded or not. It is off the main runway area. He said that he thought that maybe just regular mowing of the area would take care of it. Dr. Ham mentioned, for those on the Board not having dealt with this type of event, there are certain reporting requirements and other things that have to happen, mostly by the pilot. The investigator of the accident contacted Mr. Chadwick, and one of the questions he asked was, “what authority did we get before we moved the aircraft”? He said that he was able to get with Camille Thompson and she said we would get a report to the FAA to get permission to move it. Since it was a no-injury accident, the FAA did not come out to the scene and investigate it, and wanted us to go ahead and move it and get the airport opened back up.

### 3. Summit Aviation/FBO/Turf Runway/Tailwind – *Chad Cox, Summit Aviation/FBO* *A. Updates on FBO, Flight School, and OZI Flying Club*

Chad Cox started by saying that he appreciated all the help with the plane crash, Mr. Chadwick, Dennis Birge, and Mike Bender all came out and helped where they could. He mentioned that safety really is the

top priority around the airport and wants us to keep putting emphasis on that. He thanked Adam White for his part in that, as well.

He mentioned that they had installed another safety measure at the airport....a windsock just east of the circular runway. He thanked Adam for taking care of this.

Chad said that they are striping the taxiway now. He is asking that the city do everything they can to get the last inspections completed on the taxiway, so they can open it. Adam said they are hoping to get all this done by the end of next week. We cannot do a final inspection until they remove all that displaced equipment and actually power the lights up. They will have to get to some point where we can actually open the taxiway up, turn everything on, and reenergize the runway circuit. If all goes well, he does not see any reason why we cannot use the taxiway while waiting for the final inspection. Dan Weese said that they are running a less than 24-hour turnaround time on inspections right now after the request for inspection.

Chad mentioned that a reporter, who writes for large publications such as Wired Magazine, came in today. He is very interested in and impressed with this airport. Chad will let us know if a publication comes out of this meeting today. Additionally, a State tourism magazine, Water & Woods – Arkansas Adventure Guides, came in earlier this week and they want to do a publication regarding recreational flying and grass strips in this region. They are going to do a big ad campaign next year, so this will big for us. The marketing aspect is taking off. It is possible we could have a Grand Opening for our grass strip during this ad campaign.

#### *B. Fuel Affordability at VBT – Will Gunselman, Summit Aviation*

Mr. Will Gunselman appeared before the committee. First, he gave approximate fuel numbers for this year so far at 15,862 gallons. Last year at the same time, it was around 13,000 gallons.

Mr. Gunselman spoke about fuel affordability. He is trying to figure out how to capture more transient traffic to our area, which helps everyone. He said that the main thing pilots are looking at is fuel prices, and who has the lowest prices. He is proposing a self-serve facility to accomplish this. Mr. Gunselman proposed a 50/50 grant, in that Summit would pay half and the State would pay the other half. Mr. Chadwick reminded everyone that all grant requests have to originate and go through the City Administration and staff. There was discussion. It was determined a sub-committee consisting of Richard Ham, Charles Chadwick, and Mike Frost meet together to talk this matter out before taking any action. Dr. Ham will send something out about this later. We need to into requirements about the press and other notifications when we have ad hoc meetings.

#### **Other Business**

Other topics brought up: Rick Simmons noted that September marks the end of his term on the board. Brian Baldwin, who was present at the meeting, indicated that he had turned in his application to return to the Board. Dennis went over the process and timeline regarding applications.

Lisa Kelley asked that the airport website be updated to reflect Aubrey Patterson as the new Ex Officio member of this board. Beverly Shepherd, Administrative Assistant, made the comment that she is actively working on this and other changes.

1. Schedule August, 2020, AAB Meeting

*Proposed Meeting Day: Thursday, September 3, @ 1:00 pm*

The proposed date for the next meeting is September 3, 2020, at 1:00 pm. The board agreed to this date.

2. Motion to Adjourn

Dennis Cherry made a motion to adjourn. Mike Frost seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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