

Chairman Matt Schooley called a special meeting of the Gratiot Community Airport Authority to order at 2:01 p.m. via Zoom. A quorum of the Board was present.

Present: Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, John Lemmerman, Dave Ringle, and Matt Schooley.

Board member Kevin Beeson Arrived at 2:05 pm.

Others present: Jim Wheeler, Aeris Ripley, Tracey Cordes, Emma Selmon and Doug Merchant.

**Motion by Board Member Giles, seconded by Board Member Ringle, to approve the minutes of March 30, 2021, as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.**

**Yes: Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, Ringle, and Schooley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Beeson.**

Schooley opened the next steps discussion for the consideration of the airport transfer. County Administrator Cordes provided the Authority with a packet for review. The packeted included four possible attorneys/firms with experience to assist with drafting a transition agreement/plan. Ripley reviewed the attorney bios with the Authority Board. Beeson arrived at 2:05 pm.

The provided bios included: Leonard D. Kirsch, who was recommended by Br. Bill Fahe. The Firm of Steven Baldwin & Associates assisted with the ownership and operational responsibility change at Cherry Capital Airport. Robert Buchanan with Varnum Law was recommended by Gratiot Community Airport's engineering consultant Prein & Newhof. Lastly, a Google search provided Williams Aviation Consultants based in Arizona, who provide a range of aviation consulting services.

Schooley & Wheeler felt the recommendation from the Airport engineering firm would be someone to consider. Beeson asked what we are looking to accomplish with the attorney. Conn asked could we request from the attorney the items needed to get the transition complete. Ringle stated we have the current agreement and past agreements to work from, knowing what we like and what doesn't work as well.

Cordes suggested the scope items to request from the attorneys would be: what is required to make the transition, the time period this would take and the costs to complete the transition. The board members felt a conversation should take place with three of the four provided firms/individuals regarding the transition requirements, timing, and what will it cost.

**Motion by Board Member Giles, seconded by Board Member Beeson, to set up calls with Mr. Leonard Kirsch, Steven Balwin & Associates, and Mr. Robert Buchanan with a subcommittee and bring back a recommendation to the Authority Board.**

**Yes: Beeson, Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, Ringle, and Schooley.**

**No: none.**

The Authority Board thanked Cordes for the information provided for the transition discussion.

*New and Old Business*

The next Airport Authority Meeting was set for Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via the Zoom Conference Application.

*Public Comment*

No public comments were received.

Motion by Board Member Ringle, seconded by Board Member Lemmerman, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

  
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Aeric Ripley, Acting Recording Secretary

May 6, 2021  
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Date of Approval