

Interim City Manager Aerick Ripley called a special meeting of the Gratiot Community Airport Authority to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Board was present.

*Roll Call*

Present: Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, John Lemmerman, and Aerick Ripley.

Board members absent: Kevin Beeson, and David Ringle.

**Motion by Board Member Giles, seconded by Board Member Conn, to amend the agenda to add consideration of an extension of the current mowing contract. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Beeson and Ringle.**

*Approval of Minutes*

**Motion by Board Member Lemmerman, seconded by Board Member Giles, to approve minutes of the special meeting of January 17, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Beeson and Ringle.**

*Attorney Proposal for Transfer of Operations*

Ripley told members about a recent meeting with Attorney Robert Buchanan regarding Buchanan’s proposed plan for transfer of operations to Gratiot County. The plan includes steps to move the transfer forward and oversight after the transfer. Ripley expects, after the meeting, the transfer could reasonably be accomplished within four months. Buchanan has proposed a fee not to exceed \$15,000.

Lemmerman asked if the attorney previously hired had been dismissed. Discussion followed regarding the lack of progress and Buchanan’s plan for the transfer.

Discussion followed about whether or not the county’s still in favor of the transfer. Lemmerman voiced concerns about the lack of municipal contributions in the proposed budget, but Conn noted Ithaca had also decided not to pay the municipal contribution. Additional brief discussion followed. Giles asked if this would help the process move forward. Lemmerman indicated he did feel more comfortable moving forward after speaking to Buchanan.

**Motion by Board Member Giles, seconded by Board Member Conn, to engage Attorney Robert A. Buchanan to facilitate the transfer of airport operations to Gratiot County, for a total fee not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Beeson and Ringle.**

*Proposed Extension of Farm Leases*

Ripley asked for ratification of an extension of current farm leases, in light of the operational status issues.

**Motion by Board Member Giles, seconded by Board Member Conn, to ratify one-year extensions of current agricultural farm leases with Stone Fence Organics and Grafton Farms. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Beeson and Ringle.**

*Proposed Extension of Mowing Contract*

Ripley also asked for an extension of the current mowing contract with EEA with an increase in price of \$1,000 to account for increases in fuel.

**Motion by Board Member Lemmerman, seconded by Board Member Giles, to ratify a one-year extension of the mowing contract with Mid-Michigan EAA Chapter 134 Mowing for a total of \$10,775. Motion carried.**

**Yes:** Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.

**No:** none.

**Absent:** Beeson and Ringle.

*Proposed FY 2023 Budget*

A brief discussion was held regarding farm rent, attorney fees, cash shortfall and fund balance.

**Motion by board Member Giles, seconded by Board Member Conn, to approve the Gratiot Community Airport Authority FY 2023 Budget (Attachment A) as proposed. Motion carried.**

**Yes:** Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.

**No:** none.

**Absent:** Beeson and Ringle.

*Airport Manager Report*

Dennis McDonald reviewed items in his report including flight statistics, airport equipment status, a fuel farm update, airport events, results of a survey regarding priority improvements, and tree removal. McDonald offered an invitation for anyone wanting to tour the airport.

No additional new business was brought up when Ripley opened the floor for comments.

*Public Comment*

Doug Merchant, Arcada Township, asked when brush cleanup would be completed. Discussion followed. Ripley will contact the contractor for a status update.

Tracey Cordes, Gratiot County Administrator, stated the County is requesting a business case and questions need to be answered regarding the transfer of operations. Discussion followed. Cordes suggested a work session.

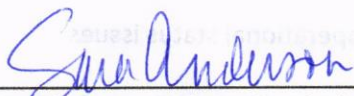
Lemmerman asked for a follow up meeting regarding the transfer of operations and brush issue. Ripley will schedule the next meeting within a few weeks.

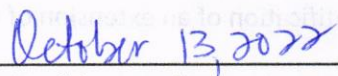
**Motion by Board Member Lemmerman, seconded by Board Member Giles, to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 p.m. Motion carried.**

**Yes:** Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, and Ripley.

**No:** none.

**Absent:** Beeson and Ringle.

  
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Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

  
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Date of Approval