



AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING
210 N HAMILTON STREET
MONTICELLO IL 61856
3:00 PM

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

2. Public Participation

This is an opportunity for the public to provide public comment to the Presiding Officer. Those wishing to speak are required to sign in prior to commencement of the meeting and must address the Council from the seat and table provided. The public comments must comply with Ordinance 2014-02 and be limited to 5 minutes or less.

3. Consent Agenda - Approval Of Documents And Action Items As Listed:

- a) Meeting Minutes - Airport Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 17, 2018.

Documents:

[AIRPORT MINUTES 9-17-2018_V2_MWA_CLEAN.PDF](#)

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a) Airport Discussion Only

6. Airport Committee Adjournment

Airport Study Committee
Meeting Minutes
3:00pm,September 17, 2018
City Hall, City of Monticello, Illinois

Committee Members in Attendance: Michael Atwood (Chairman), Cochran Keating (Secretary, Alderman), Shelly Crawford-Stock, Kevin Feeney, Kyle Koester, Gary Huisinga.

Committee Members not in attendance: Fred Sikorski, Jim Reed, Kelly Finet, Steve Tenhouse, and John Miller.

Others in Attendance: Dan (City Attorney), John Corley, Jeremy Jones (Alderman), Brad Hamilton (consultant).

City Attorney Dan Bolin told the committee that it must abide by the State of Illinois requirements for Open Meetings and that all committee members must take the Open Meetings course online within 90 days. Chairman Atwood said that he would forward the website information to all members of the committee.

Chairman Atwood stated that the purpose of the committee is to review the facts and present a recommendation to the Monticello City Council regarding action on Monticello's airport. The land lease for the current site will expire in February 2019, and a representative for the lessor (the Kratz family) has indicated an unwillingness to extend the lease. Mr. Atwood presented background material indicating success in rural communities such as Monticello is tied to a complete infrastructure, and that the airport is one piece of the communities infrastructure.

Mr. Hamilton was called to share the history of the airport and the challenges the community faces trying to extend the current land lease that Sage Air, Inc. has with the Kratz family, and addressing IDOT waivers regarding width of and leveling of the runway. While stressing the need to move quickly, Hamilton listed four steps that he believes must be taken before the lease ends in February of 2019.

1. Study and confirm physical site improvements necessary to satisfy IDOT requirements, which may include landing strip setback, drainage, and leveling.
2. Renew lease agreement or purchase the land where the airport exists.
3. Request IDOT's waiver
4. Begin the land work to satisfy IDOT requirements.

Mr. Atwood noted that the City's previous work on addressing IDOT concerns was tabled when the landowners of the current site offered to help. He referenced a 2006 article from the Piatt County Journal-Republican, reporting that Kratz family spokesman, Bob Duncan, had appeared before the City Council and offered that "... we want to help resolve the safety issues at the current location to keep the airport open." Mr. Atwood noted that the committee should attempt to resolve what has apparently changed the family's willingness to help.

Mr. Feeney asked Mr. Hamilton if the airport is lost if all the steps he listed were not met. Mr. Hamilton answered yes.

Mr. Hamilton said that without access to the existing landing strip, the IDOT waiver will expire. And,

even if an agreement is made with the lessor, the IDOT requirements will have to be met. If not, the airport will be reduced in status from a “public use facility” to a “restricted landing area” that would require special permission for landings and takeoffs.

Mr. Corley, who chaired a previous grass-roots group working on the issue, said that previous studies show that the cost to improve the runway would run approximately \$223,000. Noting that the City of Monticello is lacking the needed funding, a privately-funded economic development organization (Monticello Industrial Action - MIA) would be willing to fund necessary improvements. Mr. Corley indicated that there is some \$400,000 in the account of the MIA.

Mr. Huisinga asked why there is lessor objection to extending the airport lease.

Mr. Corley said he did not know but that it could be that the Kratz family might want to put the land back into to farming production. He said that he recommends any offer to include details ensuring that the family is more than made whole financially.

Mr. Keating added that he understood that the lessor is concerned that the City will continually try to “grow” the airport and insist on taking more land.

Mrs. Crawford-Stock questioned whether the City would need more land in five years and if the Kratz concerns were valid.

Mr. Huisinga noted that the current lease is for 18 acres and that when extra width is added to meet IDOT requirements, the total would increase by 7 acres.

Mr. Atwood suggested that a formal offer should to be made to either lease or purchase the land, and that the Kratz family has always been very generous to meeting community needs. He also pointed to the City as the entity to make an offer and to engage necessary engineering.

Mr. Huisinga added that he recommends a group meeting with the Kratz family to ask for their help and to identify their concerns. Mrs. Crawford-Stock agreed.

Mr. Feeney agreed and said that just a few people from the committee should arrange a meeting with the Kratz family. Mr. Bolin indicated that no more than three committee members should be present at that meeting to ensure compliance with Open Meetings requirements.

Mr. Atwood said that he will determine ways to meet with the Kratz family and appoint those from the committee who will be involved in that meeting.

Mr. Atwood made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Feeney seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

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