

City Manager Aeris Ripley called a special meeting of the Gratiot Community Airport Authority to order at 9:03 a.m. at the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Board was NOT present in the room.

Roll Call

Board members present: John Lemmerman, David Ringle, and Aeris Ripley.

Board member appearing via Zoom: Jamey Conn.

Board members absent: Kevin Beeson and Kurt Giles.

Others present: Tracey Cordes (via Zoom), Doug Merchant, John VanDuinen, and Jim Wheeler.

Fuel Farm Bids

Ripley explained that the fuel farm project had been let out for bids. No bids were received before the deadline, so, at MDOT's suggestion, the request for bids was left open for an additional two weeks. After that time, only one bid had been received and it was substantially more than what had been expected for the project. Ripley asked those present for direction as to moving forward with the bid received. He noted MDOT would not cover the cost of security cameras which was included in the original request for bids, so that \$37,000 had been removed from the project. The remaining project total of \$768,426 leaves \$159,333 to be funded locally. Ripley said next year's funding allotment could be used against the outstanding total, but approximately \$23,000 would still need to be paid locally for a match.

John VanDuinen, of Prein & Newhoff, added that application for 2022 funds must be made within the week, and application for 2023 funds would be available next week. VanDuinen said normally they wouldn't recommend accepting such a bid but putting the project off until spring could jeopardize funding and construction start time, and there would be no guarantee that bids next spring would be lower. VanDuinen told members that they would also run the risk of jeopardizing bidders if the project was held for rebid in the spring.

Ripley explained the fund balance currently holds approximately \$300,000 and could be used to make payment until NPE funds become available. He said he had received an email from Board Member Giles in support of accepting the bid. He said Giles was not surprised by the bid amount in today's environment.

Ripley noted 2019 funds had to be spent within four years or would be forfeited, so if they didn't move forward, that source of funding could be lost.

Brief discussion was held regarding security cameras. VanDuinen suggested looking into a simpler system. A funding match could be available.

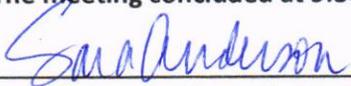
Ringle said he had seen the same problems with his projects and also says re-bidding comes with risks. He recommended moving forward with the bid received. Lemmerman and Conn agreed with Ringle.

Cordes asked about negotiating with the bidder to reduce costs where possible. VanDuinen said it was possible, but he didn't think there was much opportunity for a reduction.

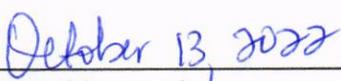
Cordes recommended moving forward with the bid and recommended asking the city and county to share the remaining balance due.

Ripley said if everyone was in agreement, he would move forward with the bid. Brief discussion followed. Ripley noted he would call another meeting as soon as the contract was received.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 a.m.



Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk



Date of Approval