

Airport Authority Chairperson 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 in the room.

*Roll Call*

Board members present: Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, John Lemmerman, David Ringle, and Aerick Ripley.  
Board members absent: Kevin Beeson.

**Motion by Lemmerman, seconded by Giles, to approve minutes of the May 12, 2022 and July 13, 2022 special meetings, as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Conn, Giles, Lemmerman, Ringle, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Beeson.**

*MDOT Sponsor Contract*

Ripley asked Board members to consider approval of a sponsor contract and signatory resolution with the Michigan Department of Transportation for construction of the fuel farm. Ripley explained the contract amount is \$824,926. \$633,334 is the federal share, \$16,667 is the state share, and the airport will use the 2023 NPE dollars for reimbursement, leaving a local share of approximately \$23,000 at financial closure of the FAA grant. Ripley noted security cameras were not included in the grant. Brief discussion followed.

**Motion by Board Member Lemmerman, seconded by Board Member Giles, to approve a resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation (#2022-0888) and the Gratiot Community Airport Authority for the purpose of fixing the rights and obligations of the parties in agreeing to the following undertaking at Gratiot Community Airport: Project Description: Construct/Improve Fuel Farm-100LL & Jet A (12,000 Gallon Tanks) – Construction and to authorize Airport Authority Chair, Aerick Ripley to execute this agreement and any other agreements and documents related to this project on behalf of the Gratiot Community Airport Authority.**

**Yes: Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, John Lemmerman, David Ringle, and Aerick Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Kevin Beeson.**

*Review of Request for Construction of Private Hangar*

Ripley reviewed the request from Steve Meinhardt for space on airport property for the construction of a 70' x 88' private hangar. Ripley noted FAA approval would be required, and distance requirements would need to be met. The project would fall under the land lease policy, and lease amounts would have to be determined after ownership issues are settled. Discussion followed about current lease rates.

Ringle asked about placement of the hangar. Dennis McDonald, Airport Manager, explained that the plan is to have a larger concrete apron in front of the building to allow for washing planes without obstructing others.

Ripley said formal action wasn't necessary, but he did ask for a consensus of members. Members present indicated they were in favor of moving ahead with the project.

*Update on Future Airport Operation Discussion*

Ripley gave a brief update on current talks with the county regarding future airport operations, noting property ownership is a sticking point.

Lemmerman provided background for the County's position on land ownership, saying the County Commission has determined that they would require land ownership if they were to take over operations of the airport, but

they were willing to deed over their property to the City if the City wanted to take over operations, and had passed a motion to that effect at their meeting.

Giles asked about the possibility of a 99-year lease or other lease hold. Lemmerman said the County Commission prefers full ownership of the property.

Additional brief discussion followed about other members of the Authority and possible deed restrictions.

*Airport Manager Verbal Report*

McDonald provided an update on the fuel farm, events at the airport, issues with the fuel pump truck, and stump removal.

*Public Comment*

No public comments were offered.

**Motion by Ringle, seconded by Giles, to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, John Lemmerman, David Ringle, and Aeric Ripley.**

**No: none.**

**Absent: Kevin Beeson.**

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Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

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Date of Approval