

Airport Authority Chairperson 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 Authority Board was present in City Commission Chambers.

*Roll Call*

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, David Ringle, Aeris Ripley, and Sam Smith.

Board members absent: none.

Others present: Curtis Dancer, Dennis McDonald, Chris Oosterhoff, and Jim Wheeler.

**Motion by Giles, seconded by Ringle, to approve minutes of the May 31, 2023, special meeting, as presented.**

**Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Conn, Giles, Ringle, Ripley, and Smith.**

**No: none.**

*Airport Transition*

Chairperson Ripley explained that resolutions requesting release and withdrawal from the Gratiot Community Airport Authority had been received from Pine River Township, Arcada Township, and the cities of Alma, Ithaca, and St. Louis. He asked for approval of a resolution to accept withdrawal and release from those member municipalities.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE WITHDRAWAL AND RELEASE OF THE CITIES OF ALMA, ST. LOUIS, ITHACA, AND TOWNSHIPS OF PINE RIVER AND ARCADA FROM THE GRATIOT COMMUNITY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

The following resolution was offered by Authority Member Ringle, and supported by Authority Member Conn:

**WHEREAS**, the Gratiot Community Airport Authority (the Airport Authority) was originally created on February 18, 2009 between Gratiot County, the City of Alma, City of St. Louis, City of Ithaca, Township of Pine River and Township of Arcada (the Parties); under the authority granted by the Community Airports Act, MCLA 259.621 *et. seq.* (the Act), and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties entered into an Amended Agreement to Establish the Gratiot Community Airport Authority on January 30, 2012 (the Agreement); and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties undertook an examination of ways to improve the efficiency, management, and funding of the Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties concluded that it is desirable to create a single county-based funding mechanism by reorganizing the Airport Authority membership under the control of Gratiot County; and

**WHEREAS**, to accomplish that objective, it is necessary that all current members of the Airport Authority, except Gratiot County, withdraw from the Airport Authority, leaving Gratiot County as the sole member; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gratiot Community Airport Authority shall remain the Sponsor of the Gratiot Community Airport, as that term is defined by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics; and

**WHEREAS**, under both the Agreement and the Act, a member community may request withdrawal and release from the Authority by resolution duly adopted, which, when approved by 2/3 vote of the Authority, releases that member from all further obligations under the Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca, and the Townships of Pine River and Arcada have requested to withdraw from the Authority and seek a release of any further direct financial obligation associated with membership in the Authority, contingent upon (1) the release of all other Parties, other than Gratiot County, (2) approval by 2/3 vote of the Authority, (3) approval of Gratiot County to become the sole member of the Authority, (4) execution of a lease of all Airport real estate to the Airport Authority, together with any required assignments of leases, property, equipment, monies and accounts of the Airport to the Airport Authority, and (5) final approval of the reorganization by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics, and

**WHEREAS**, the Gratiot Community Airport Authority has determined that all outstanding obligations of the Authority that have been incurred after the date of admission of the Cities of Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca, and the Townships of Pine River and Arcada, have been paid or adequate provision has been made for the payment thereof;

**NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Gratiot Community Airport Authority approves the withdrawal and release of the Cities of Alma, St. Louis, Ithaca, and the Townships of Pine River and Arcada from the Gratiot Community Airport Authority, effective immediately upon the last of the following to occur: (1) the release of all other Parties, other than Gratiot County, (2) approval by 2/3 vote of the Authority, (3) approval of Gratiot County to become the sole member of the Authority, (4) execution of a lease of all Airport real estate to the Airport Authority, together with any required assignments of leases, property, equipment, monies and accounts of the Airport to the Airport Authority, and (5) final approval of the reorganization by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Gratiot County shall remain the sole member of the Authority under such revised, amended or restated Articles of Organization and Bylaws as it deems appropriate for the efficient management and operation of the Authority and the Airport.

**YEAS:** Kevin Beeson, Jamey Conn, Kurt Giles, David Ringle, Aeric Ripley, and Sam Smith.

**NAYS:** none.

**Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2023.**

Ripley noted the next steps in the transition would include land leases and a resolution by the County Board. County Administrator Chris Oosterhoff is preparing a resolution for the Gratiot County Board regarding the creation of an advisory board.

#### *Fuel Farm Construction*

Ripley provided photos of current construction on the fuel farm project, saying directional boring for electrical is done, internet service is done and active, and they are waiting for meters to be available and delivered. Discussion followed regarding the sixty-day project schedule, the projected timeline for tank installation, and the possibility of granting a work stoppage to stay within the sixty-day requirement set by the engineer.

Beeson asked if the new fuel farm would be above ground. Ripley answered in the affirmative and explained ARPA funds would be used to remove the existing equipment. Dennis McDonald said an open house has been tentatively scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> and spoke briefly about the contractors on the project. Discussion followed regarding the contractor, jets using the airport, jet fuel, and credit card purchases.

*Public Comment*

No public comments were offered.

**Motion by Giles, seconded by Conn, to adjourn the special meeting at 9:25 a.m. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Conn, Giles, Ringle, Ripley, and Smith.**

**No: none.**

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Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

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