

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2013

ROLL CALL

President Keith Conrad called the regular meeting of the Port District to order on October 18, 2013 at 8 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Charles Sheridan, Katie Troccoli, John Stone, and Mark Stoudt. Member Thomas Haeberle was absent. Also present were Attorney Rich Burton, City of Ottawa Engineer Dave Noble and Rook Nelson from Skydive Chicago.

MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting of September 20, 2013 were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion to approve by Katie Troccoli and second by Charles Sheridan.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Rook Nelson from Skydive Chicago as an invited guest at the meeting spoke about Skydive Chicago and how, if at all, the Port District could work to improve airport facilities. Rook stated that in terms of community use of the airport, it is routinely used for limited corporate jet purposes, such as by the hospital and Clover. The airport has a \$20.00 landing/takeoff fee which is high. The landing fee is kept high to keep away flights schools from using the airport for training purposes since recreational general aviation use of the airport interferes with the principal use of the airport as a skydive facility. Corporate jet use of the airport is limited at this point and does not interfere much with skydive operations.

Rook commented that the existing facility is designed to work well for skydive operations. Operations include national and international events. The last national event hosted at the facility accommodated 1,300 participants and additional family members. The existing facility has a full campground and some cabins. At such events, hotels in the area are fully booked and out community benefits from the visitors.

In terms of potential improvements, the most needed is a further hanger to accommodate a second significant aircraft to use for skydive purposes. A further hanger could also better accommodate a paint shop located at the facility. A further hanger would generate a couple additional employment opportunities. Further potential improvements could be made to the runway and for access to the airport. The runway does accommodate some jet traffic, but the runway would better accommodate such by expansion in length and installation of further navigation equipment. Due to power lines toward the north, any expansion would likely need to be to the south. A direct road approach to the airport from the West would also benefit the airport, particularly for emergency ambulance use that occasionally serves the airport.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Katie Troccoli presented her financial report and bills of \$105.00 for Diane Stelken and a \$205.00 bill for the Chamber of Commerce. The financial report and bills were approved on motion of William Franklin, Jr. and second by Mark Stoudt and unanimous oral vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MEMBER REPORTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: The website needs updating. Information about Mark Stoudt needs to be added to the website and information about Eric Miskell needs to be deleted. Reference to permits and forms needs to be added to the website. Port Stationary and business cards were also discussed.

Intergovernmental Agreement: City Atty. Keith Leigh did contact Atty. Burton about some wording changes. Atty. Burton will seek to work with Atty. Leigh to finalize an agreement.

USDA Application: District is still waiting reimbursement for portion of the application fee.

NEW BUSINESS

David Noble led discussion about the city's waterfront development planning. Such potentially includes a marina and docs. While we have existing marinas but upstream and downstream from the old Central School site, such development could be of benefit to the existing marinas by providing them a nearby destination.

ADJOURN

On motion of Katie Troccoli and second by Charles Sheridan, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 a.m.