

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Sawyer International Airport
Special Meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee
Tuesday, April 24, 2018 2:00 PM
Second Floor Conference Room
Airport Service Center
Gwinn, Michigan 49841

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by AAC Chair, Frank Rosado at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Steve Adamini, Karen Alholm, John LaCourt, Bob Muelle, Frank Rosado.

Absent: Steve Rodgers.

Staff Present: Eric Anderson, Duane DuRay, Scott Erbisch, Jody Lindberg, and Steve Schenden.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by John LaCourt, and seconded by Bob Muelle. No additions were made.

3. Public Comment.

None.

4. Items of Discussion:

A. Airport Innovative – Additional Revenue and Efficiencies

Discussion took place regarding ideas for increased efficiency and revenue building for Sawyer International Airport. The following items were suggested.

1. Need to revisit discussion on efficiencies for airport buildings.

Sawyer is working toward LED lighting. Jordan Kleckner, Head of Maintenance, has been working to recoup credits and discounts when lighting is replaced with LED. Sawyer currently has a commercial agreement with Constellation for the terminal, operations building, and Waste Water Treatment Plant, which has saved the County money in electrical costs.

LaCourt contacted UPPCO on free efficiency audits. They use Efficiency United but as a residential audit only. They suggested audits done by Bob Anderson. LaCourt also talked to Sara Cambensy in regard to laws in effect.

Discussion on additional efficiencies with terminal building and design for Northern weather and the ATC Tower. Need to revisit discussion on efficiencies for airport buildings.

2. Examine the pros and cons of eliminating paper products at terminal. Considerations would include monetary savings in product, the issue of noise, use of cloth or blowers, janitorial expense etc.
3. Airport Advisory Committee supports and approves investigating alternate energy and revenue ideas as a way of cost savings. Discussion on solar opportunities and solar farms took place, including Tradewinds Project, grants, parking lot lighting, indirect lighting, cost of electricity and fuel use.
4. Consider operational proficiencies in plowing, such as segmenting lot for ease and more efficient plowing.
5. Revisit the parking fee at the airport terminal. Discussion on current parking system which is obsolete, revenue versus repair expense. Benefits if parking fee is increased such as surveillance cameras.

Current surveillance system is located on the exterior of the terminal lane in front of main terminal doors and in the parking lot on the inbound gate. Discussion took place to upgrade surveillance cameras on the parking lot. The current system could expand. Discussion also included providing a liability disclaimer and ensuring any new expansion would be conducive to the winter environment.

6. Consider alternative ways for maintenance costs. Discussion on employee operations and contracting out with an auto mechanic shop. Sawyer's current contract for parts is Industrial Marketing. Examine other alternatives for part sourcing and local purchases.
7. Consider verbiage in bargaining agreements for scheduling flexibility. Current schedule changes need to be made two weeks in advance; include in contract regarding scheduling and weather.
8. Revisit taxis and permits for additional revenue source.
9. Examine the purchase of an ATM Machine for the airport terminal versus leasing.
10. Discuss a reward system to engage crews on work efficiency, providing incentives for ideas.

11. Examine the pros and cons on the Runway Reduction Project, such as reduced time to open up the airfield, changes in staffing time, fuel for sweeping, costs with lighting and pavement painting (every three years), and weather related issues.
 12. Evaluate the number of full-time positions vs. seasonal during winter operations. Monitor and revisit staffing.
 13. Discussed Instrument Landing System and potential expenses to keep equipment free of snow.
 14. Consider other tools for operating efficiencies (ie. Gator).
 15. Review the Revenue Neutral Source (ie. Safety Security System) including Law Enforcement Coverage – LEO Funding. Examine the Risk-to-Cost on security. Law Enforcement must be under a 15-minute response time and present on airfield. TSA may not cover LEO in general. Consider when doing contract with airlines.
 16. Consider a five percent increase in T-Hangar lease rates. Examine costs for T-Hangars and benefits provided at other airports. Survey tenants to see if they would rather have one bill to include hangar electricity. Consider staffing costs for billing and security escorts for meter reads.
 17. Discussion on building marketing. Sawyer works with Telkite, LSCP, InvestUP, etc. to market Sawyer opportunities. Update building packet for County Board.
 18. Review possible millage request. What would make this request more palatable. Discussion on Stabilization Fund. Current efficiencies and cost reductions in place will allow the Stabilization Fund to carry through early 2019 or 2020. Discussion on State taxes and required rollback, working with InvestUP to push millage, upcoming meetings in place with Scott Erbisch for redevelopment opportunities..
 19. Airport Advisory Committee continues to be supportive of having a customs officer at Sawyer. Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 26th with Sen. Peters representative, Katelyn Rader.
 20. Continue to brainstorm opportunities to revitalize the general aviation and enhance the airport terminal for aesthetically when passengers arrive.
 21. Continue meetings to propagate ideas to use Marquette County airport. Possible discussions with commercial airlines.
 22. Continue working with other agencies to better market the area regionally, including Marquette, Munising, etc.
5. **Public Comment.**
None.

6. Late Additions

None.

7. Staff and Committee Member Comment

Steve Schenden commented that at the next Airport Advisory Meeting he would like to take the committee around to tour Sawyer and identify the problems and challenges we face with building repair, tearing down buildings, and what we can do to beautify the area. Schenden also indicated as a member of the Brownfield Committee, he continues to look for opportunities and is aware of what is happening in the area.

Jody Lindberg added the Customer Facility Charges (CFCs) for car rental companies would be an additional source of revenue for the County.

Steve Adamini spoke of the revenue through taxes from The Eagle Mine Project and how we should look at the Rural Development Fund for grant monies.

Bob Muelle supports comments Schenden made and looks forward to the tour.

Duane DuRay commented that we continue marketing opportunities to fill the airline seats.

John LCourt had no additional comments.

Scott Erbisch discussed the Severance Tax Fund and capital facilities for potential use at Sawyer. There may be specific line items to help in the financial costs of tearing down Sawyer buildings, particularly with the Eagle Mine closing in 2023.

Eric Anderson discussed the declining population in the Upper Peninsula and that we can't look at Marquette alone, but must examine the whole region. Anything that brings people to the Upper Peninsula will help revive it.

Frank Rosado thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

8. Adjournment.

John LaCourt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Muelle.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.