

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Airport Advisory Committee Thursday, December 14, 2023

Minutes

Members Present: Steve Rodgers, Karen Alholm, Brianna Bauer, Bob Muelle, Scott Bolster
Staff Present: Duane DuRay, Airport Manager; Bradley Wheeler, Assistant Airport Manager
Public Present: None

Call to Order: 4:01 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was moved for approval by Karen Alholm with support from Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - A. None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from October were moved for approval by Bob Muelle with support from Scott Bolster. All members were in agreement.
4. **Items of Discussion:**
 - A. None
5. **Informational Items & Project Updates:**
 - A. Hangar 664: This project is a MAP project for fire suppression that is continuing smoothly. Engineers and staff are working together to complete the final items that experienced delays. Additionally, a new server for the airport access control and monitoring system is a part of this grant. Expected completion in summer 2024. Staff will check on caulk for windows above the part room for Airline Representative.
 - B. Building 608: This building functions as a support facility for the Envoy MRO. Through the use of a CARES Act grant, this building received new siding (completed as of 12/14/2023), windows, doors, among other upgrades. The project remains on schedule to be completed in spring 2024.
 - C. Argonics Roof Drain Project: Recurring issue with roof drain system causing floor drains to overflow and flood the facility. This is a CARES Act project with United Contractors completing the work. The earthwork for this project is 97% complete. The project is on schedule to be completed soon, but is over budget. The overages will be made up through an abatement agreement with Argonics and the Airport.
 - D. Building Demolition Project: The County Board awarded the demolition bid for the 14 buildings to MRD Construction at a price for approximately \$2.6 Million. These buildings are in disrepair and are posing a hazard. MRD has moved very quickly to bring project online. Abatement is underway and new temporary perimeter fencing is in place down by the FBO for buildings 600 and 426. MRD is working to complete before the weather impacts the pace of the project.
 - E. Terminal Reconfiguration Project: The need for additional seating to accommodate more passengers and larger aircraft, while balancing the need for more space in the screening checkpoint to increase throughput are the primary drivers of the project. The initial design and project budget went to the County Board on December 5, 2023 and were approved. The initial budget for this approximately \$228,000.00. The plan includes extending the screening checkpoint and walling off a portion of the baggage claim area to accommodate additional seating. This should alleviate many of the operational constraints the airlines and TSA are working through. Also this reconfiguration would provide the potential opportunity for air service growth. The County hopes to have the project completed before the summer tourist season.
 - F. Air Traffic Control Tower Radios: Position #2 failed over the Thanksgiving weekend. The equipment is likely not repairable and will need a replacement system installed. Staff has worked with other county departments, engineering contractors, and outside companies to troubleshoot the issues, and begin the process for building a request for proposals including system specifications. The Airport is open to all phasing options to bring Position #2 back into operation. Since the failure of Position #2, Position #1 is experiencing an uptick in

transmission issues, which is adding to the pressure needed to correct the problem. It is likely that the tower may pause operations if both positions fail, leaving only the backup radios operational. Scott added clarity to this item related to the technical configurations of the tower radios. He spoke on the Airport being fortunate that the main computer is still operational. He stressed the urgency that this be an airport priority.

- G. Air Traffic Control Tower Elevator: Revisited discussion on how the airport applied for Contract Tower specific funding. There is a new application window in late 2024. The elevator and radios would be included in this application along with other items in need of upgrading. Staff is working with other departments and consultants to ensure the application process for this round of competitive grant funding is successful.

6. Late Addition:

- A. None

7. Public Comment:

- A. None

8. Staff and Committee Member Comment:

- A. All members in attendance thanked Steve Rodgers for his years of service to the Committee and holding the role of Chairperson during this year's session. The group wished him well and encouraged his attendance at future meetings.

- 9. Adjournment:** Motion by Karen Alholm with support by Bob Muelle. All members were in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.