

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**AVIATION COMMITTEE**

**Date:** February 7, 2024  
**Time:** 8:00 am (in person and virtual)  
**Present:** Koby Schellenger; John Hinz; Ed Jeziorny; Maribeth Gabert  
**Virtual:** District 26 Supv. Hanson; Jared Huss, Fox Valley Technical College; Fred Stadler, tenant; Betsy Ellenberger, District 7 Supervisor  
**Also Present:** Jim Schell, Airport Director; Cameron Hallock, Deputy Airport Director; Chris Shaffer, Maintenance & Operations Manager; Terry Rushing, Wings As Eagles; Tom Gabert, tenant;

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am

1. **Approve Minutes of December 6, 2023:** Supv. Jeziorny moved to approve the minutes from December 6, 2023, seconded by Supv. Schellenger. Motion carried 4/0
2. **Public Comment on agenda items or any item under the jurisdiction of this committee:**  
Supervisor Hanson voiced his concern over items #4, #5, and #9 on our agenda for today. He stated that he is primarily looking at items number four (4) and five (5) because he sees there is a discussion for them to be a capital improvement project. He is wondering if making them a capital improvement project increases bargaining power to the city of Oshkosh. Supv. Hanson is hoping that these items don't stall on the committee. He would like them to advance quickly and go back to the Winnebago County Board for their meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. He added that he feels the fire station design work needs to be expedited immediately. With items #4 and #5 Supv. Hanson suggested putting these on the Spirit Fund agenda and funding them immediately instead of being Capital Improvement Projects. Supv. Hanson is willing to write the resolution or co-sponsor the resolution to get the funding with the Spirit Fund to happen quickly. The last item Supv. Hanson want to address is item #9. He is wondering if we have any data from EAA regarding revenue that comes into Oshkosh and the surrounding areas or even just gross revenue resulting from the annual AirVenture event.
3. **Director's Report:**
  - a. *East GA Hangar Project Final Update:* Mr. Schell advised that on Monday, February 5 the City Inspector was here. We received permission for occupancy of the east building. The west building has a unit that is ADA accessible, and the city had some questions regarding that unit meeting requirements. Currently there is no occupancy in the west building until the city inspector allows occupancy. We are currently inquiring to see if the other nine units can be occupied while the ADA unit is being evaluated.
  - b. *Maintenance & Operations Manager Introduction:* Mr. Schell introduced Chris Shaffer, our new Maintenance and Operations Manager for the airport. Mr. Shaffer has been with the airport since 2020. Started with the county at the Highway Department transferred to the airport as an Equipment Operator shortly after that. Before joining the county, Mr. Shaffer worked for the city in the Sanitation Department as an Operator. Mr. Shaffer was also with ABC Supply Company. He has extensive knowledge and experience with operating equipment. Mr. Shaffer is certified with operating cranes and operating back hoes, skid steers, and other construction equipment. Mr. Shaffer is from Oshkosh and in his downtime enjoys fishing, boating, football, and spending time with his wife and kids.
4. **Discuss & Approve 2024 CIP Request for ARFF truck Replacement:** Supv. Schellenger made a motion to bring the discussion and approval of the 2024 CIP Request for ARFF truck replacement to the floor. Supv. Hinz seconded this motion. Mr. Schell advised that this 2024 CIP Request is to replace the 1986 Oshkosh T-1500. This specific truck has surpassed its useful life and has several shortcomings. Maintenance is hampered by the lack of available replacement parts due to the model no longer being supported by the manufacturer. There is also an issue with the foam used for fire suppression. In late 2023, the FAA certified an

alternative foam for use in ARFF vehicles. The current foam dispensing system on the 1986 truck does not allow for self-contained testing which is now required by state environmental law. Investing significant funds into a truck that is already obsolete in many other ways isn't prudent. Supv. Jeziorny mentioned that we have been borrowing an ARFF truck from Central Wisconsin Airport as a short-term solution to supplementing our ARFF index during AirVenture and wondered what the cost was associated to that. Mr. Schell stated that we pay the trucking and firefighter expenses. We pass these expenses onto EAA. With Central Wisconsin loaning us this truck, there is an understanding that while we have their truck, should anything happen to their primary ARFF truck at Central Wisconsin, they would need to take the truck loaned to us back immediately. Supv. Ellenberger does not believe in trying to piece together an old truck that wouldn't have any warranty. She believes we should be all in for this airport with maintaining it and preserving the safety of operations here. Supv. Hinz questioned the remediation process moving forward with a new truck and new foam in comparison to what took place from the helicopter accident at the airshow last summer. Mr. Schell confirmed that with the newly certified alternative foam in use, there would be no remediation required with its usage. Supv. Schellenger agreed with Supv. Hinz that there is much more that needs to be taken into consideration when looking at a new ARFF truck. He is in favor of a new ARFF truck and thinks the Aviation Committee should move this forward. Supv. Gabert believes this ARFF truck brings about a safety feature not only to the airport, but to our community. Supv. Schellenger made a motion to approve the CIP request for ARFF truck replacement in the amount of \$1.4M to be considered by the full County Board with an amendment to allow the Spirit Fund to be an option. Supv. Hinz seconded this motion. Motion carried 4/0.

5. **Discuss & Approve 2024 CIP Request for Airport Fire Station Design & Engineering:** Supv. Schellenger made a motion for the discussion and approval of the 2024 CIP Request for Airport Fire Station Design and Engineering to be brought to the floor. Supv. Hinz seconded this motion. This 2024 CIP Request is to fund design, engineering, and environmental work needed to design a new airport fire station at the existing location off Knapp Street. Supv. Jeziorny started the discussion by stating that he feels this needs to be handled like the previous agenda item. He feels that this fire station is needed. Supv. Hinz stated that the fire station is aging and is old. Fire Fighters don't want to be stationed there. Some people believe they have developed illnesses from working at that specific fire station due to exposure to PFAS and poor ventilation. Supv. Hinz thinks this is a no-brainer and believes this is something that needs to be done now. This is a facility that services the residents of Winnebago County. Supv. Schellenger feels as though this is a building in need and agrees with this request. Supv. Gabert stated that when thinking about the residents of Winnebago County and the location of the airport fire station, she realized how important this fire station is in terms of safety to our residents of our city as well as the airport. Supv. Ellenberger agrees with maintaining our buildings in the county and believes this should be sent back to the board. Supv. Schellenger made a motion to approve the CIP request for Airport Fire Station Design and Engineering funding in the amount of \$450,000 to be considered by the full county board with an amendment to allow the Spirit Fund as a financial option. Seconded by Supv. Hinz. Motion carried 4/0
6. **Discuss & Approve a hangar lease between Fred Stadler and Winnebago County:** Mr. Hallock explained that a few months ago the Aviation Committee had approved Fred Stadler to move into one of the new hangars. While we have been waiting for the new hangars to be ready for occupancy, one of Fred's more preferred hangars opened up due to the current tenant selling her plane. Fred Stadler was at the top of our waiting list for that specific hangar, so he decided to vacate his current hangar and move into L-809B instead. This 1,386 sq. ft. county-owned hangar is located on the north side of the airport near Knapp Street. The hangar rate for 2024 is the rate set for the previous tenant who is vacating, which is \$415.73 per month plus tax. Each year after this year the rate will increase by the change in CPI-U. The term is February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2027. Supv. Schellenger made a motion to approve the Airport Hangar

Lease for L-809B between Fred Stadler and Winnebago County, seconded by Supv. Hinz.

Motion carried 4/0

7. **Self-Serve Update – Justin Rust:** Mr. Schell advised that Mr. Rust was unable to attend the meeting, he will give a detailed update at our March meeting.
8. **2023 Year in Review Slideshow:** Mr. Schell presented our year in review from events that have taken place at our airport during 2023.
9. **EAA Report:** Supv. Gabert wanted to mention that we have the Snowbirds and the Italian Military scheduled to be at AirVenture this year. Mr. Schell spoke to the economic impact of AirVenture from the last study completed in 2017 was \$170M. The last time the airport did an economic impact study was back in 2012 that studied everything outside of AirVenture, the businesses, the number of jobs created, it showed an additional \$40M for a combined annual economic impact of approximately \$210M. The Bureau of Aeronautics is conducting a statewide economic impact study of all airports in WI that is supposed to be released in a few months.
10. **Chairman's Report:** None
11. **Committee Member Statements/Suggestions/Items for Future Agenda:** None
12. **Set Next Meeting Date:** March 6, 2024
13. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made by Supv. Jeziorny, seconded by Supv. Hinz. Motion carried 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Maki  
Administrative Associate  
Wittman Regional Airport