
City of Mitchell

612 NORTH MAIN STREET • MITCHELL, SOUTH DAKOTA 57301 • (605) 995-8420 • FAX (605) 995-8410
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Airport Board Minutes August 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Tom Case, 12:00 pm, at the airport. Members present were George Bittner, Levi Koerner, Tom Case, and Darren Brewster. Others present were: Mike Scherschligt.

Public Input: None

The minutes of July 2016 were presented. A motion was made by Darren Brewster, seconded by Levi Koerner to approve. Motion carried, minutes approved.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Agronomy Plus	\$ 299.78
Dakota Supply Group	\$ 260.81
Honda of Mitchell	\$ 15.95
Menard's Inc.	\$ 208.90
Thune True Value Hardware	\$ 51.97
Tractor Supply	\$ 192.97
Walmart	\$ 62.44
Northwestern Energy	\$ 781.34
Wright Bros. Aviation	\$ 500.00
	<u>\$2,374.16</u>

A motion was made Darren Brewster and seconded by Levi Koerner to approve the bills of July 2016 as presented. Motion carried, bills approved for payment.

The Financial Report for July 2016 was available. Motion made by Levi Koerner to approve the reports. Seconded by Darren Brewster to approve. Motion passed.

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(AIR VENTURE CUP - CONCLUSION) The 2016 Air Venture Cup event went well, with over 2,000 in attendance, and 170 free Young Eagles. The weather cooperated and the aircraft were able to launch early Sunday morning.

(ALFALFA – SWITCH TO HAY / PASTURE GRASS) The airport is required to maintain extended safety zones along runways, and RPZ approach surfaces. This is currently a combination of grass and alfalfa. The 150 acres of alfalfa is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain. For example, when advertised for agricultural leases, the airport has specified 150 acres to remain alfalfa. Unfortunately alfalfa needs to be rotated every 3-4 years. This rotation creates tremendous expense, and leaves those acres without any production for extended periods of time. Alfalfa is, also, difficult to maintain in certain areas due to weeds, drought and not being able to use chemical applications. The best solution to this issue would be to change the roughly 150 acres to a quality hayable grass. This will still meet all safety requirements, and be easy to (maintain/advertise) and never need rotation. The recommendation would be to use a Millborn #3 Hay & Pasture mix (quality yield), to be seeded by the Davison County conservation district this fall. The cost for the seed and labor is \$13,975.00. The cost for this will be split between the Airport and the current lease holder Chad Blindauer. The city's portion will be deducted from the November payment. The City attorney will draft an amendment to the current lease, and the future leases and advertisements will be changed accordingly. A motion was made by Darren Brewster, seconded by Levi Koerner to amend the current lease accordingly, spec a quality grass mix within the amendment, and specify to be planted this fall. The motion passed.

(2016 – AIP UPDATES) The airport is still waiting for any estimates and schedules for the completion of the 2016 parking lot project. The final items include additional asphalt, a small piece of concrete and re-seeding the grass areas.

(ENTRANCE GATE – KEYPAD) Over the years, inquiries have been made regarding the current DKS secure card reader vs. a keypad for access through the airport electric gate. The current DKS has proven reliable and maintained at least a level of access security. If a key pad were to be installed, it would more than likely be easier for codes to begin to circulate and eventually be the equivalent of a simple toggle switch. The Board feels the access security will be best served with the current system already in place. It has been proven to be secure and reliable.

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(AIRPORT PROPERTY – GUN RANGE NE) A land owner with property adjacent to the north end of the airport has inquired into the potential of purchasing property known as (the old gun range). This property was part of a transfer to the City from the Federal government. Even if it were to be sold, it would require FAA approval, and more than likely a mound of paperwork. Airports are typically in the business of buying property around the airport perimeter for protection, not selling property already owner. This would be an ill-advised maneuver. A motion was made by Levi Koerner, seconded by Darren Brewster not to entertain the idea of selling this particular piece of property or any other property already owned by the airport. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Darren Brewster and seconded by Levi Koerner to adjourn. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

By: Thomas Alcae

As: President