

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
September 30, 2015

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, in the Commissioners' Room of the Steuben Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald L. Smith, James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present was Kim Koomler, Auditor.

Ronald Smith, Board President, passed the Chair to Commissioner Lynne Liechty as she has been spearheading the activities with the Airport Board. Commissioner Smith stated that at the last meeting there was a motion made, seconded and passed by all three (3) Commissioners, that the Board of Aviation would be removed and replaced. Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, said that there was propriety in terms of selecting individuals and Commissioner Liechty can work with him on that to make sure the right people are in the right place for the right reasons and for the right time.

Lynne Liechty thanked Chuck Walker and Randy Strebis for stepping up to this challenge and the Commissioners could not be doing this without them. Commissioner Liechty stated that Mr. Walker and Mr. Strebis have a new vision for the airport and John Kline, FBO, will be helping them with that. Lynne Liechty stated that the Airport is a gateway to Steuben County and we need to have teamwork, positive interaction and to set a new tone for the Steuben County Airport and she believes this new Aviation Board of Commissioners and John Kline, FBO, will be able to do that.

Commissioner Liechty stated that they have gone through a number of people, there have been a series of interviews and the list is as follows:

Chuck Walker, President
Randy Strebis, Vice President
Todd Gorman, Secretary
Matt Perry, Board Member
Sam Adams, Board Member
Alternates: Chuck Moore and Bob Johnson

Lynne Liechty stated that this board will be considering term limitations, training and going to conventions so we can compare and have a vision on how to best move the Steuben County Airport forward from this point.

Chuck Walker stated that he considers this duty an honor and considers himself a custodian in terms of this responsibility. Mr. Walker said that in a lot of ways it is humbling and the Board considers themselves servants of the Community and they really want to build a coalition and get all of the concerned parties, users and tenants, together working in one direction for the benefit of the Airport and the Community at large.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, said that there is a five (5) member board, Chuck Walker, Randy Strebis, Todd Gorman, Sam Adams and Matt Perry with two (2) alternates. Chuck Walker stated that they are looking at this as an interim, they want to vet out other people that have expressed interest in serving. Their understanding of State regulations is that they have to have some political balance on the Board, so that's a condition they have to meet.

Mr. Walker said that the Board has business that needs to be conducted in a timely manner and there was no September meeting. A Board needs to be put in place and it has been discussed that this is really an interim board and they want to be able to take the proper time to vet other interested parties and put together the best Board they can. He feels that the business of the Board needs to get going and then look at the long term Board. Mr. Walker stated that he expects to put a process in place where there is a natural turn over in the Board like an Industry Association.

Ronald Smith stated that the Board of Commissioners has to appoint the individuals to the Aviation Board and there is no organization until they meet. Donald Stuckey stated that they will have to replace specific persons on the Board and the Board of Commissioners will have to decide which new members replace the old members because they will be finishing out the term of someone else. Mr. Stuckey also stated that they will then have to meet

and select their officers, the Commissioners do not select their officers. Donald Stuckey also said that the breakdown of the political parties is also needed for the record. Ronald Smith said the next step is for the Commissioners to appoint the members and then the members need to meet and appoint their officers.

Lynne Liechty stated that today she is going to appoint Chuck Walker as Chairman to organize the meeting and he will be taking place of Dr. Weaver, Randy Strebig will be replacing Walt Drewes, Todd Gorman will be replacing Elten Powers, Matt Perry will be replacing Larry Watkins and Sam Adams will be replacing Michael VanWesten. Ronald Smith made a motion to appoint the five (5) individuals, listed by Commissioner Liechty, to the Aviation Board of Commissioners so they can select their leadership. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey stated that the list has been made of who each new member is taking the place of and the political affiliations is also needed for the record. Lynne Liechty stated that Todd Gorman and Matt Perry are both Democrats and that has been confirmed with Judy Rowe. Donald Stuckey stated that they can now meet and Chuck Walker, as Chairman, can organize that meeting so they can select the officers. Mr. Stuckey also said that there is still a contract with John Kline, FBO, and the Aviation Board still has James Burns as their attorney.

Lynne Liechty told Chuck Walker that he needs to know what is in the Aviation Budget and if the new members of the Board intend on going to the training. Commissioner Liechty recommended getting that put through fairly quickly since it is in October. Chuck Walker stated that he encouraged everyone to register online and to pay at the convention. Mr. Walker said that he needs help in getting familiarized in the application for expenditures. Kim Koomler said that she and Lori Hickey will be helping with that.

Lynne Liechty stated that she was very surprised that there was no highway signage to the airport and she is going to go to the Highway Department and ask that some signage be put up.

Chuck Walker stated that they had a good meeting with the engineering firm and the good news is that there is really no major issues pending on state or federal level. The business that the Aviation Board needs to get up to speed on is local vendor payments and the establishment of the Board and the positions. Mr. Walker stated that both the engineering firm and INDOT highly recommended the attendance of the Annual Aviation Convention.

Kim Koomler, Auditor, said that they are not really comfortable with using the Board of Aviation line item because that is typically used up by the end of the year. Chuck Walker stated that the training is \$350.00 for a three (3) day session; however, it is \$200.00 for the Wednesday only session which is what they were planning to attend. He also said there will be no overnight costs. Kim Koomler suggested paying for it out of the Commissioners' Travel line item and transfer funds later if needed.

Ronald Smith requested that a letter be sent to the prior Aviation Board thanking them for their service.

Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director, came to the Commissioners regarding the Radio Project. He said that he spoke to Motorola and he realized that there was a slight problem. Twenty-five percent (25%) is due upon the contract execution. They've agreed to go down to fifty percent (50%) on hardware and the last fifteen percent (15%) will be put on at the very end. Mr. LeTourneau stated that the problem is that the fifty percent (50%) that would be due at hardware receipt, is going to be invoiced in 2015. Mr. LeTourneau said that they can rewrite the CSA with a zero percent (0%) four (4) month lease of that hardware that says the County will get the hardware in 2015, but payment won't be due until four (4) months after that date and the bond will hopefully be secured at that time. Ronald Smith stated that Mr. LeTourneau will need to take this issue to County Council. Mr. LeTourneau said that he will ask Motorola to revise the contract to include that and then send it to Barnes & Thornburg for review.

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

Lynne A. Liechty, North District

Attest: _____
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor
elw