

**Wiscasset Municipal Airport Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes January 17, 2024 - submitted by Steve Williams**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Wiscasset Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm on January 17 by Chair Steve Williams. Members present: Ray Soule, Pam Brackett, Mike Costigan, Erv Deck and Stephen Williams. Also in attendance Airport manager Rick Tetrev, Selectman William Maloney, and Economic and Development Director Aaron Chrostowsky.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 29th meeting were read, and approved with corrections.

**Airport Manager's November Report**

**Fuel Sold**

- 100LL Avgas: \$7881 (1249 gallons)
- Jet-A: \$139 (27 gallons)

**Fuel Purchases**

- 100LL Avgas: none.
- Jet-A: none

**General Comments and Operations**

- Flight activity for the month of November was 240 operations. At the end of November there had been 3192 operations. The average per year is 4500.
- Budget-wise the airport spent 30% and collected 13%. Most revenues come after the first of the year in the form of land leases and excise tax.
- Ramp Fees, which come from aircraft that land here, are not private and collect payment from their passengers. We charge \$75.00 each time they land. Our budget target for this Fiscal Year is \$2,000.00. We have collected \$1,450.00 for the first five months of the Fiscal year.
- In August, we had two separate facility inspections of our runway and taxiway to including the approach areas on both ends of the runway. The FAA inspected in August and MDOT inspected in September. Both identified areas of new tree growth that needed clearing for the safety of the aircraft and its passengers. The requirement is that from the centerline of the runway for 250 feet on each side has to be clear of obstructions to include trees. These areas are difficult to clear because of the topography, which includes areas of wetlands. Fortunately, Public Works was able to put us in touch with a company that had the equipment and knowhow to do the job. They used a boom mounted mulching head, which allowed them to take the trees down and mulch them on site. With the reach of the boom, they were able to stay out of the wetland areas and remove the growth without disturbing the environment. In addition to having the job done quickly and without issues the price of the work resulted in the cost being half of what was budgeted.

### **Fuel Sold**

- 100LL Avgas: \$8,466.78 (1,341.81gallons)
- Jet-A: \$ 1.29 (0.25 gallons)
- Fuel sales of Avgas in November was up by \$586.2 from November, which equates in gallons to 92.89 gallons more.
- Fuel sales of Jet-A was down by \$2,431.72 equaling 474.02 gallons less.
- The price of Avgas remained the same at \$6.31 per gallon and Jet-A remained the same @ \$5.13 per gallon.

### **Fuel Purchases**

- 100LL: none.
- Jet-A: none.

### **General Comments and Operations:**

- Flight activity for the month of December was 162 operations. At the end of December, we had 3,354 operations for the calendar year.
- Budget wise, we have spent 41% of the budget and have collected 17% of revenues. As noted in last month's report, most of our revenue comes after January with things such as excise taxes and land leases.
- On December 13, FAA and MDOT officials came to the airport and met with our Town Manager, Dennis Simmons, our consultant from Stantec, and me. We did a walking inspection of the runway construction project done in 2022. Their assessment was positive with a few areas that need addressing with the contractor.

The new runway was much needed and we are fortunate to have it. We continually get words of praise on the new and improved runway from transient pilots that have been coming here for years. Here is one comment on a Christmas card that we received from just such a pilot, "P.S. We LOVE the new runway (happy face)."

### **Old Business**

- Solar Farm Income- Economic and Development Director Aaron Chrostowsky is going to get updated on account information.
- Brush clearing Primary Surface- Aron Chrostowsky suggested that grub, grading and seeding areas might be less expensive in the long run.
- Airport Manager, Town Manager and Stantec representative to meet and discuss scope of work involving ramp repaving and FBO building energy improvements.
- Public Relations- Town is now a member of the Chamber and this should cover the airport.
- Hangar Development- Little progress there. Costs of erecting a building is discouraging interested parties. Explore advertising for potential developers in New England aviation publications.
- Airport Courtesy Vehicle -Aaron Chrostowsky reported that Efficiency Maine EV rebate and lease plans significantly reduce the costs of an EV airport courtesy car.

### **New Business**

- Steve Williams introduced Town of Wiscasset's Committee Handbook. Electronic copies sent to all committee members.

- Committee voted to renew terms Secretary and Chair for six months to adhere to timeline specified in Committee Handbook. Steve Williams has been covering both positions.
- Business View magazine will be covering the Town of Wiscasset in one of its future editions. They previously did an article on the airport.
- Soule and Costigan suggested an individual as a potential committee member. Steve Williams to review the bylaws and check number of members specified. Currently there are five members.
- Brackett and Williams have both resubmitted their names for reappointment to the committee. On docket for Wiscasset Selectboard in February.

### **Airport Minimum Standards**

- Dennis Simmon's responded to inquiries on the status of the draft.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Calendar**

Next regular meeting is February 21, 2024.

### **Adjournment**

At 6:10

### **Current Committee Members**

Steve Williams Chair 12/23

Erv Deck 12/24

Pam Brackett 12/23

Ray Soule 12/24

Mike Costigan 12/24