

CITY OF BARRON AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order

The Airport Committee of the City of Barron met on **Thursday, July 14th, 2016** at City Hall, located at 1456 E. LaSalle Ave, Barron, WI. Alderman and Committee Chair Rod Nordby called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee members present were Alderman Mike Dietrich, Alderman Mark Thompson, Craig Anderson and Airport Manger Kris Wells. Also present: Mayor David Vruwink, Airport Compliance Manager WIDOT-Howard Davis, Wastewater Department Supervisor Mike Romsos, City Attorney Andrew Harrington, Barron County Administrator Jeff French, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Bob Kazmierski, James Ormson, Thom J. Rutherford, Lori Wells, and Krista Hanson.

2. Introduction of Howard (Hal) Davis, Airport Compliance Manager- Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Bureau of Aeronautics

Hal Davis introduced himself and reiterated that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) contacted the City of Barron to inform the city that the ATV trail was an incompatible land use within the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) and that this type of recreational activity is unlawful. The RPZ was defined as on the ground only, not above the surface. Mr. Davis told the committee that the City, as owner of the airport, is obligated to comply with his agencies regulations but it is not mandatory. These regulations are in place to keep people safe and that the BOA's primary concern is removing the ATV trail from airport property. In particular, the BOA also recommends that the Birch Ave portions of the ATV trail be relocated. The City closed the trail in late May, 2016. Consequences of non-compliance for the City of Barron includes: possible full/or partial refund of a 2007 BOA planning grant that the City received to develop a 20-year infrastructure plan, loss of eligibility to apply and receive future grants from BOA, risk management-unsafe conditions for users of the airport.

3. Tour of municipal airport and Runway Protection Zone

Committee did not tour site

4. Discussion of site visit and ATV trail options

Members of the public requested that ATV trail be re-opened. No accidents have occurred on that part of the trail. An approximate \$350/day economic impact of the trail for City of Barron was highlighted. Airport users also have an economic impact and the airport generates revenue for the City via personal property tax, rental/lease income. Alderman Mark Thompson suggested erecting warning signs on the ATV trail where it enters the airport, advising caution and to "proceed at your own risk," per the recommendation of Andy Harrington, the city attorney, and to open negotiations with Gene Anderson to allow his driveway to be used by ATV riders, and set a deadline for the negotiations. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Thompson to recommend to City Council to open the ATV trail until Nov 1, 2016, contingent upon proper signage of both North and South Side of the RPZ warning ATV users of risks and need to stop. Motion failed.

Motion by Mark Thompson, seconded by Nordby, to recommend to City Council to permanently close ATV trail after November 1, 2016 in/on Airport runway, not to include Runway Protection Zone, in order to determine and pursue alternative routes for ATV users.

Ayes-4 Nays-1 Motion carried.

5. Adjourn.

Duly moved to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.

July 14, 2016

Respectfully submitted

Bob Kazmierski, City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer