

**MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF  
AVIATION COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

**DATE:** April 18, 2017  
**TIME:** 0800 hours  
**PLACE:** Airport Terminal Building

**MEMBERS:**

*Dr. William Pugh, President*  
*Mr. Ken Ritchie, Vice-President*  
*Mr. Gene DeVane, Secretary*  
*Mr. Patrick Murphy, Treasurer*

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

*Mr. Bobbie Burke Jr., BMG Aviation*  
*Mr. Bobbie Burke Sr., BMG Aviation*  
*Mr. Steve Capps, Cook Aviation*  
*Mr. Jeff Cockerill, Monroe County Legal Department*  
*Mr. Gerry Harkin, EAA650*  
*Mrs. Nancy Johnson, Airport Secretary*  
*Mr. Josh Lankford, ATCT Manager*  
*Mr. Bruce Payton, Airport Director*

Dr. Pugh called the meeting to order at 0805 hours. Mr. Payton reported the previous meeting minutes weren't ready at this time and asked they be approved at next month's meeting.

**FARM CONTRACT UPDATE:**

Mr. Payton recapped the farm lease status. Mr. Jeremy Bright was unable to make payment by the due date this year and therefore defaulted on the contract and called to apologize that he could not get the money in time.

Mr. Payton reported he moved forward with the Farm Auction on April 5, 2017. There were 9 registered bidders and Mr. Jimmy Dean Coffey was hired as auctioneer. The Final bid was at \$210.00 per acre. The high bid came from a family group of two brother-in-law's; Mr. William Duckworth and Mr. Kenny Terrell. Mr. Duckworth provided an excellent resume that included references and an extensive equipment list. Mr. Payton reported with additional acreage we purchased, the total amount will be 564.5 acres, which comes to roughly \$118K per year revenue from the farm grounds.

He noted the new contract will not change much from past farm contracts, it is still a no-till practice, no storage of equipment, personnel training is required to drive within the airport property, no sub-lease and the application of Ag lime. A new section was added regarding soil testing. The Airport will pay for the first year to set a baseline after that the airport and farmer will split the expense. Mr. Payton made the recommendation to accept the bid.

Hearing Mr. Payton's report, Mr. Ritchie moved to consider and discuss the contract and it was Seconded by Mr. DeVane. Mr. Ritchie asked is there any possibility we could gain any more farm land. Mr. Payton said we have included as much as possible acreage for farming. After a brief discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

#### **CITY ANNEXATION:**

Mr. Payton gave an update on the City Annexation. He reported that he attended the meeting last month with the County Officials to discuss how the annexation will affect the county taxes and how this will affect Van Buren Fire Department. He spoke at the meeting briefing them on the procedures regarding ARFF and community fire response to general aviation aircraft. Mrs. Kiesling suggested we make contact with the City Fire Chief and City Council to discuss the airport's fire response needs.

Mr. Murphy noted that we are not seeking new firefighting personnel and asked what is the airport facing if this annexation goes as presented; can the airport approach the city directly? Mr. Payton responded that at his meeting with county officials, it was discussed that Monroe County should present their concerns as a group.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Payton reported the EAA Chapter 650 will be hosting an event May 18-21, 2017 featuring the Ford Tri-Motor and will be offering rides to the public. In addition, there will be Antique and Classic Cars on display Saturday May 20. This event will take place on the aircraft parking apron in front of the Old IU Hangar. Mr. Payton explained this is continuation of the EAA's commitment to conduct more aviation activities; the he thanked Mr. Harkin for all the work the group has completed on the office building since they moved in.

Mr. Payton reported to the Board that he has contracted Mr. Phillip Everson of Three Points Marketing to design and build our website. Mr. Payton stated that he and Mr. Ritchie have been discussing how to best market the airport in the future and how to attract more interest from aviation businesses for the new land we have purchased.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Payton told the Board the closing on the Grubb Property was held last Wednesday morning and the airport will pay interest payments twice a year for the next 5 years. He noted that Phase I Environmental Assessment of the Grubb property was received Monday afternoon from Field's Environmental.

The report indicated there has apparently been fill-dirt added in some areas of the property since 1966; filling an old pond and drainage areas. There appears to be no chemicals present on the

land, but it was noted there is an old water well that will need to be capped. Lastly, there is a small cemetery and we have been told family of the deceased still visit. Mr. Payton stated the airport will fence the cemetery and maintain it as we do another on the airport.

Mr. Payton reported the FAA Certification inspection was conducted last week and it went wonderfully. There were only a few minor recommendations and the inspector complimented the staff on their great work.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**No Comment**

There being no comment and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 0857 hours. The next meeting is May 16, 2017 at 0800 hours.

***Bruce Payton, Airport Director***