

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND FORKS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 15, 2018

The Grand Forks Regional Airport Authority Board of Commissioners met in its regular session in the Board Room of the Byron L. Dorgan Terminal on Thursday, November 15, 2018, presided by Vice Chairman Steve Kuhlman. Members present were Gary Malm and Tim Mutchler. Chairman Rick Meland participated via tele-conference. Absent were Dane Simonson, Karl Bollingberg, and Jeannie Mock. Staff attending included Ryan Riesinger, Executive Director, Tanna Aasand, Director of Finance/Administration, and Rick Audette, Operations and Maintenance Manager. Airport Attorney Tim Dittus was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

### A. Reading and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mutchler and seconded by Malm to approve the September 24, 2018 Strategic Planning Session minutes and the September 27, 2018 meeting minutes as written. **Action Taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Reports

#### 1. Financial Report

Aasand reviewed the financials and presented highlights. She and Riesinger answered questions about snow removal costs so far, and deicing practices at the FBO (Avflight).

#### 2. Director Report

- A five-year FAA Reauthorization Bill was signed into law in early October. On the positive side, this bill provides much needed stability of the program for the five year time period, however, it kept funding levels flat at \$3.35 billion per year. All things considered this is a positive development as we enter into our future construction projects.
- Meeting at FAA Headquarters to be scheduled – with the election now over we will be working with our congressional representatives to assist in scheduling a meeting at FAA Headquarters, likely for early January.
- 2018 Construction update – construction is progressing, however the cold and snowy weather has impacted the schedule.
- 2018 Allegiant Conference – Riesinger attended the annual Allegiant Conference in early October. Allegiant has been especially pleased with our performance to Phoenix and Las Vegas. Orlando has not performed as well as the other two, but Allegiant is seeing this in other similar markets also. Their flight transition continues to proceed to an all Airbus fleet, which should be complete by the end of this year. We have been seeing more of the larger A320's than the smaller A319's here at GFK and that is resulting in more seats per flight. In October we had 15 A320 operations verses 4 A319's. The A320's have 177 seats and the A319's have 156, so 21 more seats on the larger aircraft.
- Airline Lease Negotiations – continuing to make progress. This item will be on the Board agenda in December for action.

# DRAFT

- UND Hockey weekend activities last month were a great success. There were special UND themed decorations throughout the terminal and provided giveaways to passengers (gift baskets, \$40 gift certificates for parking, etc.). On a typical Thursday we have approximately 350 passengers, on that Thursday with the two additional flights we had 850. WDAZ did a nice news story on all the activities and we received a lot of positive feedback from those who used GFK for their travel.
- GFK Operations – Riesinger handed out a list of operations comparisons to other airports. GFK was ranked 19<sup>th</sup> busiest in the nation as of August 2018.
- Riesinger distributed an article from the UAS Magazine about a falcon-shaped drone that is being used near the airport and has dramatically reduced both the number of birds at the airport and the number of bird strikes on manned aircraft. Aerium Analytics, Clear Flight Solutions and the USDA have been working with City of Grand Forks to make this possible. [Link to article](#).

## C. New Business

### 1. December Airport Authority Meeting Date

Mutchler moved to set the next meeting date as December 20, 2018. Malm seconded the motion. **Action taken:** Motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Malm Retirement

Gary Malm was presented with a parting gift as this was his last meeting. Malm retired from the Grand Forks County Commission this year and consequently retired from the Airport Authority Board. Riesinger thanked him for his 11 years of service to the airport. Malm commended the Board and Staff for their hard work. [Link to picture](#).

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Coleen Peterson, Board Secretary