

**FINGER LAKES REGIONAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING**

Members Present: Gerard Mirabito, Jr. – Chairman, David Haimes – Secretary, Allen Staff – Airport Manager, Bill Bordeau – Planning & Community Development, James Dolan – McFarland Johnson Engineers, Don Earle – Seneca Falls Town Supervisor, Jeff Shipley-Executive Director Seneca County Chamber of Commerce, Vern Sessler, Jr., Robert Skinner, Paul Richardson, Hunter Mollin, August Gillon, Robert Pfeiff, Peter Same  
Guest: John Sheppard – Seneca County Manager  
Excused: Milt von Hahmann, Dr. Kenneth Padgett

Chairman Mirabito opened the meeting at 7 PM and welcomed the members and guest in attendance. Minutes of the September 9, 2015 meeting were accepted without revision. Gerry introduced John Sheppard to the Committee. Mr. Sheppard is the new Seneca County Manager and has a keen interest in the airport and aviation. He is a former career USAF pilot and a licensed general aviation pilot.

**Airport Manager's Report:** by Allen Staff

- Allen reported third quarter fuel sales: \$22,000 jet fuel purchased by the LifeNet Helicopter alone.
- The jet fuel truck is being kept at the LifeNet hangar. The County has approved construction of a lean-to with a concrete floor and an overhead door to protect the fuel truck from weather.
- LifeNet wants to erect a fence to better protect their six million dollar helicopter.
- Finger Lakes Flying Service continues to quite busy doing aircraft maintenance work.
- All hangar space is full.

**Engineering Report:** by James Dolan

- Please see the attached engineering report.

**County Review:** by Bill Bordeau & Don Earle

- The Seneca County budget has passed. The approval was given to seek additional hangar space (new construction grant).

**FLAPS Review:** by David Haimes

- FLAPS has added two new student pilots since the 9/9/15 meeting of this Committee.
- The FLAPS hangar will be heated to 40 degrees this winter to avoid “cold-soaked” avionics. E&V Energy of Weedsport installed a new 50-gallon propane tank behind the hangar.
- FLAPS has donated a 30-minute introductory flying lesson to the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce annual dinner auction scheduled January 16, 2016. This is the second consecutive year that FLAPS has made this donation.

**Chamber of Commerce Review:** by Jeff Shipley

- Jeff met with airport manager Allen Staff to talk about the airport and to “brainstorm” ideas for rental cars at the airport. When aviators, private and business, fly to a location, a key need is for them to have transportation to the local area. In fact, most pilots will chose their destination airport based on the availability of rental cars once they arrive. There has been poor availability of rental cars at FLRA for many years. The Enterprise outlet in Geneva is uncooperative, the two Seneca Falls business that rent cars are also difficult to deal with. When a private pilot or a business traveler gets out of his very expensive aircraft, he does not want to get into a junk automobile to get to his appointment. This is an on-going problem at FLRA and will require some more work to solve.
- Jeff said the airport is mentioned prominently in the Seneca County Travel Guide and Map.

- Jeff said the Chamber is looking to recruit UBER to Seneca County. This is a long-term goal as UBER is only active in New York City at the present time.

#### **Old Business:**

- Bill Bordeau reported that there is still no agreement with the owner of the agricultural spray operation regarding “thru-the-fence” operations on the airport. Twice in the past year, a fuel truck delivered aviation fuel to the spray operator’s fuel tank. This is not allowed at the airport. All airport tenants must purchase their aviation fuel, whether 100LL avgas or Jet-A fuel from the County. At the 9/9/15 Committee meeting, it was decided that Bill Bordeau ask County attorney Frank Fisher to send a letter to the owner/operator of the agricultural spray plane telling him that he may not purchase and tank his own fuel. He must buy his fuel from Seneca County. This issue must be resolved.
- The following Committee members were appointed or re-appointed to the Committee by the Board of Supervisors and will serve three-year terms: Gerard Mirabito, Jr., Vern Sessler, Jr., Peter Same, Milt von Hahmann, Dr. Kenneth Padgett, Don Earle.
- Earl Martin has agreed to serve on the Committee and his name will be brought before the Board of Supervisors for approval. Earl’s first meeting will be in March 2016.

#### **New Business:**

- Don Earle stated that he has a contact in the DOT Region 3 office who may be able to help the airport get the new Snow Plow and truck that has been approved.
- Bill Bordeau reported that people living on Noble Road have complained of flooding and were blaming the airport, but the airport is not the source of their flooding problems. Water does not flow uphill.

Chairman Mirabito closed the meeting at 8:10 PM. The first-quarterly meeting of the Committee will be Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7 PM at the airport.

Submitted by:

David Haimes  
Secretary