

FINGER LAKES REGIONAL AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SENECA COUNTY, NEW YORK  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2019 MEETING

Members Present: David Haimés – Airport Manager, Jill Henry – Director, Seneca County Planning & Community Development, William Verfuss – McFarland Johnson Engineers, E. Lee Davidson – Supervisor Town of Lodi, Jeff Shipley – Executive Director Seneca County Chamber of Commerce, August Gillon, Earl Martin, Robert Pfeiff, Laverne Sessler, Jr.

Excused: Dr. Kenneth Padgett, Craig Saxton – Chairman, Don Earle – Secretary, Dr. Hunter Mollin, Milt von Hahmann

Absent: Peter Same

Committee Chairman, Craig Saxton is in Florida and Secretary Don Earle is excused this evening. In their absence, Vern Sessler agreed to chair the meeting and David Haimés agreed to take the minutes.

Acting Chairman Vern Sessler opened the meeting at 7:02 PM and welcomed the members in attendance. Minutes of the December, 2018 meeting were accepted without revision.

**Airport Manager's Report:** by David Haimés

- See attached report describing airport activity, fuel sales, maintenance FBO status and other issues.

**FLAPS Review:** by David Haimés

- After a slow winter, flying activity at Finger Lakes Area Pilots is beginning to awaken. FLAPS has signed up one new student pilot this winter.
- FLAPS and the Waterloo Rotary Club will co-sponsor a Fly-In Breakfast in early September.

**Engineering Review:** by William Verfuss, McFarland Johnson Engineers

- See attached engineering report.

**County Review:** by Jill Henry

- The lease agreement between Seneca County and Air Methods/LifeNet is due to expire in April. Negotiations are being conducted to write a new lease agreement between the two parties. Early agreements include the County repairing the septic system serving that hangar, improvements to the HVAC system and improvements to the driveway and parking lot. The monthly lease payment by Air Methods would increase by 5 percent to \$3675.00 per month over the next five years. This would mean the County would collect \$220, 500.00 in lease payments over the next 60 months. Before any agreement is signed, the County attorney needs to review the proposal. Air Methods purchased \$44,950.00 in Jet-A fuel from the airport in year 2018. If that trend continues over the life of the five-year lease, the County could sell close to \$200,000.00 in Jet fuel to Air Methods in the next 60 months.

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

- The airport is featured in the new Chamber Guide to Seneca County. The airport was presented with the article in a nice frame and that is now displayed in the terminal lobby.

**Old Business:**

- A letter thanking Gerard Mirabito, Jr. for his many years of service on this Committee was written and signed by Board Chairman Robert Shipley and sent to Mr. Mirabito.
- Discussion took place by the Committee members regarding the ultimate need for a longer runway at the airport. The airport infrastructure is important (hangars, fuel system, ramp space, etc.), but the key to the ongoing growth and development of the airport is a runway of at least 5,000 feet. The

airport will continue to lose jet traffic to surrounding airports such as Penn Yan and Canandaigua as those airports already have runways of 5,000 feet or greater. As long as our airport has a runway shorter than that, we will continue to see jet traffic go to other area airports.

**New Business:** None

Acting Chairman Sessler closed the meeting at 8:40 PM.

**Next meeting:** The second quarterly meeting for year 2019 will be on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7 PM at the airport terminal conference room.

Submitted by:

David Haimes  
Airport Manager