

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
County of Dukes County, S.S.  
MARTHA'S VINEYARD AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**

**December 14, 2023, 2:00PM  
Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission Conference Room  
and by Zoom Conference**

**PRESENT:**     **Commissioners:** Bob Rosenbaum, Don Ogilvie, Kristen Zern, Bob Zeltzer, Richard Knabel, Jack Ensor (zoom), Geoff Wheeler (zoom)  
                  **Staff:** Denise Tawa, Geoffrey Freeman (zoom), Joan Shemit (zoom)  
                  **Other:** Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes of the 11/9/23 regular meeting.  
*Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Ogilvie to approve the 11/9/23 draft minutes. Ms. Zern seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:*

*Wheeler – Aye, Ensor – Aye, Knabel – Aye, Ogilvie – Aye, Zern – Abstain, Zeltzer – Aye, Rosenbaum – Aye.*

Motion carries **(6-0-1)**.

III. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Knabel reported that first quarter finances are in good shape. Fuel sales are normal except AvGas sales for November are the highest they've been since 2017. Mr. Knabel credited Ms. Metcalf has been doing a good job maximizing funds to put into the treasury. Accounts receivable remains very low; there was an issue with one of the airlines, but that payment was received earlier today. Mr. Knabel still has concerns about County finances and their ability to complete the annual audit; they still have not completed an audit for 2022 and have yet to start on 2023.

IV. LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

a. Award of RFP 2023-05

Mr. Wheeler stated that the Sub-Committee reviewed proposals for Lot 43. There were three submittals; two proposed storage units, the third was for fiberglass pools. After review, it was determined that two of the proposals did not meet the submission requirements. The third proposal met all requirements and was also the highest bidder: GJ Smith, Inc. proposed a total payment of \$77,806 for a 20-year lease. They will construct a storage facility with 86 units. The recommendation to award to GJ Smith is unanimous from the Land Use Subcommittee.

*Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Wheeler to award the lease to GJ Smith, Inc. Mr. Ensor seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:*

*Ogilvie – Aye, Zern – Aye, Zeltzer – Aye, Wheeler – Aye, Ensor – Aye, Knabel – Aye, Rosenbaum.*  
Motion passes unanimously **(7-0)**.

## V. OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Zern said the Committee did not meet but she has been working with Sam Hart to increase aviation awareness at the High School. She reported that School Administrators are currently too busy to work on implementing an aviation program and it has been difficult to get a cohort of students to travel off-island for this. She is going to try reaching out to parents instead of administrators to generate interest. Ms. Zern distributed a flyer she put together for the scholarship program.

## VI. MVY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Freeman reported that stats for November are slightly down, likely due to the poor weather around Thanksgiving.

The Wastewater project is going according to plan; the system is currently down while the building gets reworked. They are also working through the issue with the damaged equipment, which Mr. Freeman said will not hold up the project. Substantial completion is expected mid-2024, with only punch list items remaining.

The Noise Study is being reviewed, when the review is complete, it will be entered in the National Register.

The taxi lane project is set to begin this spring and the snow removal equipment will be purchased next fall.

Mr. Freeman continues to work with DCR on the access easement in the State Forest.

## VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Rosenbaum recognized the hard work of Mr. Norman Werthwein, who has donated substantial time and effort to help bring the Airport and County finances back in line. Mr. Rosenbaum praised Mr. Werthwein as an amazing asset and presented him with plaque as a token of appreciation. Mr. Werthwein thanked the Commissioners and said he has enjoyed working with the Commission and seeing the improvements over the years.

## VIII. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY CHAIR

None.

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## X. ANNOUNCE NEXT MEETINGS

MVAC: January 11, 2024 at 2:00pm  
Outreach: January 4, 2024 at 2:00pm  
Land Use: January 4, 2024 at 3:00pm  
Finance: January 5, 2024 at 10:00am

## XII. ADJOURN

*At 2:30pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously (7-0-0).*

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.

Minutes approved: 1/11/2024