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Airport Commission
City of Tomahawk, City Council Chambers
23 N 2nd St, Tomahawk, WI 54487
October 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Bill Dreger called the Airport Commission to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call: Commission members present were Bill Dreger, Gary White, Robin Werner, and Dean Clark.

Also in attendance were Clerk Amanda L. Bartz, Street Leadsperson Nick Rosenmeier, and Airport Manager Dan Anderson. Council Members present were Patricia Haskin, Jeff Kahle, Dale Ernst, Steve “Ding” Bartz, and Mickey Loka. Also in attendance were Dee Dreger and Ray Marvin.

Public comments: Ray Marvin requested the ditch next to the runway/taxiway and the off-field runway be filled in and a culvert installed. He stated that he would just like it to be as safe as possible and explained a scary situation that he found himself and his granddaughter in when he was teaching her to fly.

Mickey Loka asked the Commission if they knew the usage of the Airport. DREGER stated that we may be able to capture some data from the animal survey that was conducted because there was a camera up to monitor animals.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: CLARK MOVED to approve the minutes from October 10, 2023 meeting and WHITE seconded. The VOTE was unanimous.

Other Business: Review of the 2025 Airport Budget

DREGER stated that he looked through the expenditures from this year. He stated that the Finance Committee has asked us to cut \$1700 from our budget and a lot of these items are fixed items.

Mickey Loka asked if the revenues could be increased to offset the expenditures, for example, hanger rentals. Ding Bartz asked who owns the hangers and what the lease amount is. CLARK stated that the leases are set at \$0.10 per square foot. He stated that that money goes to Friends of Tomahawk Airport (FOTA) to offset the capital costs.

CLARK stated that when we were younger, we would raise a lot of money for the Airport through fundraisers. He stated that FOTA raised enough money to pay for the manager’s house and there are things that need to be fixed, like the washing machine.

Mickey Loka stated that FOTA is no different from Wawui to SARA Park, Friends of Pride Park, or Kwahamot. They all have to do fundraisers and if they don’t, the organization goes away.

Dee Dreger stated that FOTA pays for the portion that the City would be required to pay for Federal Airport entitlements. Clerk BARTZ stated that the City’s responsibility is \$5,000 for every \$100,000.

1 CLARK stated that the City has never had to pay for any of the capital equipment. He stated that in the
2 past, the streets department would give them their old dump trucks or snow equipment, and they
3 would sell the Airports to off set the cost of purchasing a new piece of equipment.
4

5 Pat Haskin asked how many Tomahawk taxpayers use the airport. WHITE stated that it is a regional
6 airport and just because someone does not use it, does not mean that it is not a need part of the
7 community. He used the Library as an example; he stated that he does not use the Library but pays
8 taxes towards the Library and understands that it is need service to the community.
9

10 Marvin stated that the Airport is not just about having fun, it is educational too.
11

12 Clerk BARTZ stated that we are sitting here because since 2018 the Airport has accumulatively overspent
13 their budget by \$85,000 and other departments are required to keep under budget and to cut from next
14 years budgets.
15

16 Mickey Loka added that we have asked the Streets Department to cut \$30,000+, the Police Department
17 \$70,000+, and the general governmental services to cut \$20,000+. He stated that we have cut positions
18 and that is why we are here, the Airport needs to cut as well.
19

20 CLARK stated that we can look at savings in our internet and utilities.
21

22 ROSENMEIER stated that we not only need to set a balanced budget, but we need to stay within that
23 budget. We do not get to go over, or we need to stand before the Finance Committee and ask for more
24 funds. We have the same restrictions.
25

26 Discussion followed regarding various line items in the budget.
27

28 Clerk BARTZ asked why all the surrounding townships are no longer part of the airport. CLARK explained
29 that they had a vote in their townships and people did not want to contribute to the airport.
30

31 Ernst stated that there was a commission on fuel, does the airport still get that? CLARK explained that
32 that went away when fuel prices went so high.
33

34 Bartz asked what the total revenue is on the 16 hangers, he also asked if there was any requirement to
35 have airport equipment in the hangers. Discussion on the hangers followed.
36

37 Bartz stated that there are opportunities and value at the airport. ROSENMEIER questioned if an airport
38 needs to be owned by a municipality or if it could be privately owned. CLARK stated that there is, but
39 they do not receive Federal funding.
40

41 Haskin asked how much FOTA has contributed to Airport this year. CLARK stated that he could not tell
42 them that information. Loka stated that this is the problem, we do not know who is using the Airport
43 and what is spent. He stated that we need to see expense reports so when the community asks why we
44 need an airport there is a justification.
45

46 CLARK stated that there are a lot of organ donor aircraft that use the Airport. DREGGER agreed and
47 stated that the Federal Government feels that the airport is important.
48

1 Loka stated that we have a deadline of October 12, 2025 to present a budget to the Finance Committee.
2 CLARK and the Airport manager will meet to review the airport expenses that the City pays.

3
4 State and Federal Aid for Improvements to Tomahawk Airport, 7500 South River Road, Tomahawk, WI
5 54487

6
7 DREGER stated that these requests are for capital improvements. Haskin asked if this would obligate
8 the City to keep the airport open. Mickey Loka explained that the City is obligated to remain open
9 during the life of any equipment or improvement that is paid for in part by State and Federal funds. He
10 used crack sealing as an example, if the State pays to crack seal the runway we would be obligated for 3
11 years.

12
13 WERNER stated that he has been contacted by the Medford Airport Manager, he is requesting us to look
14 for the controller that they lent us. WERNER also commented that the equipment should be parked
15 inside the shed that they built to protect the life of the tires. They should not be left out in the sun.

16
17 **Next meeting:** The next meeting of the Airport Commission will be October 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at City
18 Hall, 23 N 2nd St, Tomahawk, WI 54487.

19
20 **Adjourn:** WHITE MOVED to adjourn the meeting of Airport Commission and CLARK seconded. The VOTE
21 was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

22
23
24 Approved: _____