



SAUGEEN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

SAUGEEN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED

Wednesday, September 18, 2019 || 2:00 p.m.

Board Room || Saugeen Municipal Airport

PRESENT: Dan Gieruszak, Rebecca Hergert, Dave Hocking, Dave Schmidt, Rob Olds, Jack Zeinstra, Paulette Peirol, Dave Rumsey, Jonathan Zettel

REGRETS: Kelani Stam, April Marshall

GUESTS: Ruth Owler, Victor Danielli, Anne Danielli, Shelly Thomas, Dave Kennedy, Moe Hanif and Fiona Hamilton

CALL TO ORDER

D. Gieruszak opened the meeting at 2:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. He noted Dave Hocking requested the addition of Ruth Owler to the agenda and this change was made.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by **DAVID HOCKING** Seconded by **DAVID SCHMIDT**

THAT the Agenda of September 18, 2019 Regular Meeting be approved as printed and circulated.

CARRIED.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None

Delegations

1. Ruth Owler, Media Sales Consultant, The Post

Ruth Owler relayed how she was previously approached by someone connected with the airport in mid-June—but noted they are no longer with the airport—to see about some marketing solutions. They discussed specific needs of getting people out to the airport and general awareness of what happens on site. At the time, it was suggested about \$1,000 to \$1,300 a month budget for marketing. She pointed out how The Post has a variety of products—print and digital—that could provide solutions to SMA challenges.

David Hocking said he was surprised to hear someone from the airport had reached out to The Post, but because that had happened, he wanted to make sure the matter was brought before the committee.



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Ruth Owler said there was no financial commitment made. She has a proposal based on what may or may not be accurate.

Dan Gieruszak noted a marketing strategy is being looked at and once this strategy is approved SMA will have a better idea of where to go.

Dave Schmidt pointed out there is no budget for marketing.

Ruth Owler said every business needs a marketing plan and The Post has products that help provide solutions. She agreed to send the proposal to David Hocking to share with the committee.

2. Fiona Hamilton, clerk, Municipality of Brockton

Fiona Hamilton said she is always happy to talk about open and close meetings. It is basically one section of the Municipal Act and seems straight forward the first time you read, but you notice more, every time you go over it again.

She noted all Municipal meetings should be open to the public unless they meet criteria outlined in the Municipal Act including: security of the property, personal matters, acquisition of land, employee matters, information given to a local board by Canada, discussions around a trade secret, negotiations, or if a closed meeting is ruled from another act.

Hamilton said there is a lot of nuance. But to remain in open session should be the default.

It is always good practice to read the section and be sure. Beyond that the office of the Ombudsman of Ontario has spent a long time considering this and can provide guidance.

Closed meetings might include security issues. You wouldn't want the public to know where security cameras are being installed. Litigation or potential litigation could be another signal for a closed meeting—but there needs to be some indication this might happen—for example; a person says they are going to see a lawyer about this, you can move into a closed session for that.

Hamilton noted reading the guidelines carefully.

There should still be records of closed sessions.

D. Gieruszak thanked Hamilton for attending.

R. Hergert said there are copies of the Act available from the ombudsman's office.



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Hamilton said it's about building trust with the public. Closed session minutes are helpful when there is a changeover in board members. She noted it is important to have place to store them.

D. Schmidt asked where the minutes should be kept.

Hamilton responded minutes of meetings should be available to the public, so whatever makes them the most public. A paper copy is needed for those who do not have internet access.

D. Gieruszak thanked Hamilton for attending.

3. Mo Hanif, stakeholder

Hanif thanked the board for the opportunity and figured what he had to say should be in open session. He said SMA means a lot to him and has been associated with the SMA for the past 20 to 25 years and he feels welcome and that it is a good environment.

He wished Mr. Phil Englishman was present because he did not want to be misconstrued. He said they go back a long time. Hanif recounted several stories to illustrate the closeness of their relationship including two incidents where others in the airport community had derogatory messages toward Mr. Englishman and Hanif came to his defence.

"We looked after one another," he said. "He says, brother from another mother—we have a good relation."

Hanif said many times he had to coach Englishman on his approach. He said he was made aware of a recent Facebook post alleging antisemitism activity within SMA.

Hanif said this is a very sensitive phrase to use and said Englishman was in the habit of using those phrases when he wants attention.

Hanif said throughout his life he and his family faced moments of racism. He said his children went to school in Chepstow and Walkerton and they know racism.

He said the reputation of the airport was on the line. Go back 40 years and SMA was known for being a friendly place to land. The pilots here would give you the wheel off their plane so you can fly home.

Hanif said the dispute with Englishman has to stop. He said it takes a long time to build a reputation, years and generations, but it only takes one comment to bring us down.



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Hanif presented printed copies of Facebook posts and handed them out.

Hanif lobbied for the board to put an end to the dispute. He noted several times Englishman thwarted the rules around the airport.

He ended his passionate delegation asking the board for action and added the chair Gieruszak has dealt with facts to plan forward and Hanif appreciated his service to the community.

Gieruszak noted it cannot be easy to put a presentation together like that where he has such a personal involvement and exposure to these kinds of situations. He noted the official direction is for any infractions to be reported to the OPP and Air transport.

Hamilton noted once the Facebook posts were made public it is difficult to pull it back.

D. Hocking thanked Hanif for making an attempt to defuse the situation and he was sorry it didn't work out. He noted the commission has written comments from Vic and Anne Denelli and said the SMAC has taken those to heart.

The situation needs to be addressed.

R. Hergert said they want this to be resolved and said there are a lot of players involved including the municipalities. We do have to sort this through.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
MOVED BY R. HERGERT
SECONDED BY D. SCHMIDT
CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

D. Hocking asked whether the board names, positions and photos have gone up on the website.

D. Rumsey said he is just waiting for pictures and bios from the group.

CORRESPONDANCE REQUIRING ACTION

D. Gieruszak said Mr. Englishman has asked SMAC to only communicate to him through his lawyer.

J. Zettel asked the chair if speaking about litigation would be a reason to move into a closed session given what Hamilton had been saying earlier in the meeting.



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D. Hocking moved that further discussion be put in camera

R. Hergert seconded

CARRIED

MANAGER'S REPORT

D. Schmidt said the manager's report was very thorough.

R. Hergert said she liked the wholesome report.

D. Gieruszak noted it was a very detailed report and gives the commission a good example of what happens day-to-day.

R. Hergert asked how much fuel we might have on hand. At one point, there was a report of targets etc.

The interim manager said they are on target.

FINANCIAL REPORT

D. Schmidt noted they are down significantly in rentals of the rooms/boardroom.

R. Hergert said there is software some of the municipalities are using that might be able to help people book and pay for rooms online.

COPA 54 report

Jack Zeinstra said there is not a huge amount of stuff going on. They are working on the airshow and have been scheduling some of the logistics.

Elections for COPA 54 are coming up.

There was a trip to Pelee Island. It was a good tour. Next year they are thinking of flying out to Mackinaw Island and expand it beyond COPA 54.

There has been some discussion around logos.

Motion to pass all reports

Moved by D. Schmidt

Seconded by R. Hergert

CARRIED



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NEW BUSINESS

R. Hergert said there is potential for a student to do computer work at the SMA as a co-op placement via Launch Pad.

D. Hocking suggested speaking directly to the teacher to see what exactly the student may want.

R. Hergert said the relationship with Power Worker's Union has been a benefit to the whole airport and the grants are appreciated.

M. Hanif asked if there is a code of conduct at SMA.

R. Olds said something like that could be incorporated. He added the operation manual, emergency plan, rules of the airport should be posted. Not everyone needs to be told, but certainly if there are on the wall then there's little excuse.

Gieruszak said he had contacted David Smith at Bruce County to discuss an emergency plan.

R. Hergert mentioned Grey County could also be included in emergency plan discussions.

D. Schmidt suggested it might be a good idea to bring everyone together because SMA could act as a disaster centre and lends itself to be an emergency response centre. It will require chiefs to co-ordinate.

R. Hergert said that is something we can make happen, if that's what we want to do

D. Hocking talked to Christine and she would be pleased to sit down to talk financials. He noted November 27 Hanover will look at budget.

D. Schmidt said given the amount of money coming from the municipalities "we cannot survive" without Municipal support. He said our biggest challenge is to work with the municipalities.

D. Hocking said that is why it is so important to get our economic development projects going.

D. Gieruszak thanked everyone for bringing matters forward. There is a long list. He also acknowledged Shelly Thomas for her work over the summer keeping the flower beds beautiful.

3:45 p.m.

MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA

Moved by DAVE HOCKING



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**Seconded by REBECCA HERGERT
CARRIED**

Dave Hocking/ Dave Schmidt MOTION TO Adjourn at 4:30 p.m.