

Minutes

Airport Advisory Board

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The Airport Advisory Board of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, held a regular meeting on April 22, 2025, at the DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport, 3232 Pleasant Street, DeKalb, Illinois, in the FBO West Community Hangar.

Chairman Robert Owens called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Robert Owens called the roll, and the following members of the Airport Advisory Board were present:

- Robert Owens
- Bernard Pupino (Vice-Chair)
- Melissa Amedeo
- Matt Duffy

Absent members:

- Scott Carlson
- Derek Hiland

Also present:

- Airport Operations Manager Ben Trompeter
- Public Works Director Andy Raih
- City Manager Bill Nicklas
- Assistant City Manager Bob Redel
- City Council Member Mike Verbic

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Matt Duffy moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Bernard Pupino. The motion passed by a majority voice vote of those present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Bernard Pupino moved to approve the minutes from March 25, 2025, as presented, seconded by Matt Duffy. The motion passed by a majority voice vote of those present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City Manager Bill Nicklas provided an update on the hiring of an architecture firm to draft a design for a proposed restaurant building at the corner of Peace Road and Pleasant Street. Although a presentation was hoped for, the design was not yet ready. It is anticipated to be presented at the May 27th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

DeKalb Taylor Solar Update

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Airport Operations Manager Ben Trompeter shared an update regarding the solar farm development. The FAA has approved the use of 48.76 acres of airport property for non-aeronautical use with the following conditions:

- Revenue generated must be used for airport capital or operating costs.
- Approval is valid for 25 years, with renewal required for extension.
- If an aeronautical need arises before the 25 years expires, the approval is rendered null and void.

NEW BUSINESS

DKB-4906 Acquire Snow Removal Equipment

Ben Trompeter informed the board that bidding opened on April 9, 2025, and closes on May 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Equipment being bid includes:

- Front Loader
 - Bucket Attachment
 - Broom Attachment
- Skid Steer
 - Bucket Attachment
 - Broom Attachment
 - Box Plow Attachment
 - Snow Blower Attachment (*Alternate*)

The airport has \$650,000 in grant funding available for the purchase. One inquiry has been received from Case, and the goal is to obtain all equipment in time for next winter's snow removal operations.

Retirement of Bernard Pupino

City Manager Bill Nicklas announced the retirement of Vice-Chair Bernard Pupino from the Airport Advisory Board, effective following the meeting. Bernard served on the board for 11 years. His dedication and contributions were recognized and appreciated by the board and the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Bernard Pupino moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matt Duffy. The motion passed by a majority voice vote of those present.