

AIRPORT ZONING BOARD

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MEMBERS

David Aungst, Beth Blanco, James Daly, Terry Collins, Kevon Martis, Dustin Krasny, Ralph Tillotson, David Stimpson, James Van Doren
Second Floor, Old Court House
301 N. Main St,
Adrian, MI 49221

MEETING LOCATION

Commission Chambers

Minutes: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

I. Call to Order

Present: Commissioners: David Aungst, Beth Blanco, Terry Collins, James Daly, Dustin Krasny, Kevon Martis, Ralph Tillotson, David Stimpson, James Van Doren
Also Present: Administrator Kim Murphy, Corporate Counsel John Gillooly, Deputy Administrator Shannon Elliott, Airport Manager Thomas Kendzior, Sandie Brisset, Judy Gilmore, Administrative Coordinator Carissa Zubke, Marketing & Communications Coordinator Jen Ambrose

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM by Comm. Van Doren.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes: March 31, 2025

Motion by Blanco, to approve the minutes of March 31, 2025, seconded by Aungst. Motion carried.

III. New Business

A. Request from other Airports Regarding Airport Zoning Ordinance

Administrator Murphy opened the discussion. She reported that during the joint zoning board meeting, there was an inquiry regarding the option to cover smaller local airports under the County Ordinance. Ward reported that there may be the option to cover other airports under the County Ordinance. However, it would increase/change our general services contract with Mead & Hunt. Administrator Murphy stated that if the Airport Zoning Board makes this change in the zoning ordinance, it would include a significant expense increase in our general services contract with Mead & Hunt due to necessary mapping/research, and assistance. Currently, the Administrator is working with Stephanie Ward to discuss further details, should the Zoning Board decide to include other local airports in the County Airport Zoning Ordinance.

Included in the packet is a letter that the Board Chairman received; approximately 3 airports have been in contact regarding a request to be included in the County Ordinance. In addition,

Murphy explained that should we decide to include other municipal airports, it will drastically change the current County Airport Zoning Ordinance.

Comm. Martis stated that public-use airports automatically get some protection from the FAA guidelines. However, it is not a 10-mile radius. Martis read a letter a constituent received from the FAA. Comm. Martis stated he received information that there are 3 FAA-recognized private airports interested in extended coverage from the County Ordinance. Further discussions could include a fee-based agreement with these airports.

Comm. Stimpson discussed that, before including smaller airports in the ordinance, he would like additional information from the experts in the matter, including the FAA, Corporation Counsel, and Stephanie Ward- Mead & Hunt. Comm. Stimpson stated the FAA does have some height regulations in place for the smaller airports.

Comm. Collins stated that from his many years on the County Commission, generally, the County does not get involved in local zoning, for private purposes. Comm. Collins would also like additional information before making a decision regarding this topic.

Comm. Van Doren touched on some concerns regarding the expense of this and that possibly, the timing of it is not right.

Discussion was held that the application for MET towers was reviewed by the Airport Zoning Manager and Mead & Hunt. It was determined the towers are outside the County Airport's 10-mile radius and a determination letter would be sent out. Further Comm. Van Doren mentioned that with applications coming in, we may not want to wait to revise the County Airport Zoning Ordinance. In addition, he would like more information about the private airports, and other additional opportunities they may have.

Corporate Counsel Gillooly suggests many valid points have been brought up today, stating Mead & Hunt is a great resource as far as the FAA guidelines, especially if the FAA is sending letters to private airports and encourages continued dialogue with Stephanie Ward.

After further discussion, it was decided that the Airport Zoning Board should review the proposed changes to the ordinance and bring all suggested edits to the Administrator's office. The Airport Zoning Board will meet again next month, and consider the next steps.

Comm. Tillotson discussed that further discussions should continue, to ensure we have the most accurate and correct information.

Comm. Stimpson addressed the issue of having a public ordinance that restricts private ownership, possibly resulting in some liability issues. Stimpson would like for this to be an additional thing the whole Zoning Board should consider.

B. Request: Review Lenawee Airport Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Comm. Martis stated many of the changes to the Airport Zoning Ordinance were not major; the ordinance is in effect and does not feel there is an urgency to make amendments.

Administrator Murphy further discussed that a few weeks ago, the Zoning Ordinance included changes from Corporation Counsel for review at the 3/31/25 joint meeting. At that time, Mead & Hunt had not made revisions to the ordinance yet. Murphy shared that, at this time, there was an understanding that the proposed changes by Mead & Hunt would be minimal, and the ordinance would be ready to propose a public review/hearing next month. Mead & Hunt's proposed changes were received at the Administrator's office on Sunday evening and, after reviewing these changes, Murphy stated that it was determined the Ordinance, in fact, is not ready to move for review/public hearing.

Discussion continued that the Zoning Board should take all the information today, the proposed revisions, absorb it, and come back for another meeting with Corporation Counsel and Mead & Hunt.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Commissioner Comment

No comment.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Martis to adjourn at 11:57am, seconded by Collins. Motion carried.