

**Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Joint Study Session – Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

Tentative minutes – meeting recorded

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and are not the official record of the meeting; the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

<https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2000#video>

Meeting called to order by Chairman William J. Bunek at 2:00 p.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call:	District #1	Anthony Ansorge	PRESENT
	#2	Debra L. Rushton	PRESENT
	#3	William J. Bunek	PRESENT
	#4	Ty Wessell	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#5	Patricia Soutas-Little	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#6	Carolyn Rentenbach	PRESENT (via Zoom)
	#7	Melinda C. Lautner	PRESENT

Roll Call was then taken by Grand Traverse County: Present were Ron Clous, Brad Jewett, Gordie LaPointe, and Rob Hentschel; Remote were Betsy Coffia and Bryce Hundley; Excused was Addison Wheelock, Jr.

Roll Call was then taken by Northwestern Regional Airport Commission: Present were Commissioner for G.T. County Rob Hentschel and Commissioner for Leelanau County Debra Rushton; Remote: Dan Ahrns, Mike Coco, Tom Kern, Steve Plamondon, and Doug DeYoung.

Welcome Statements:

Chairman William Bunek, Leelanau County offered opening statements regarding the purpose of the meeting, followed by welcoming statements by Chairman Rob Hentschel, Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners and then Chairman Douglas DeYoung, Northwestern Regional Airport Commission.

Review and Approval of the Agenda and Rules of Order and Rules for Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek reviewed by the Rules of Order.

Rules of Order: The purpose of this study session as requested by Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties is to review a sample of Articles of Incorporation for a potential Airport Authority to govern the Cherry Capital Airport and/or a review a sample of an Operating Agreement for potential amendments to continue governance as an Airport Commission.

The physical location of this study session will be both: Leelanau County Governmental Center, 8527 E. Government Center Dr., Suttons Bay, MI 49682, and Grand Traverse County Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Ave., Traverse City, MI 49684.

The meeting will also be held remotely in the interest of public health and safety. Video technology will be utilized, which will allow the Commissioners to see and communicate with any other Commissioner in attendance and any member of the public or staff attending and shall allow any Commissioner, any member of the public, or staff attending to see the Commissioners and communicate with the Commissioners.

A live streaming of this meeting will be available for viewing via the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNOTglgcTedF2qB8floC1GQ?view_as=subscriber

A quorum of the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners is present in the Commissioners meeting room located at 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.

The ability to jointly meet for this purpose is to make it easier to work together effectively and to help Commissioners as joint owners of the Cherry Capital Airport accomplish the goal of airport governance. All members have equal rights, privileges and obligations. Each Chairman will ensure its members will be heard. The Chairmen for Leelanau County, Grand Traverse County, and the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission will lead the meeting. During the appropriate time for discussion, each member of their respective Commission will notify their respective Chairman if they would like to be heard. The respective Chairman will then call each member from their respective commissioner requesting to be heard in an alternating fashion in the following order: Leelanau County; Grand Traverse County; Northwestern Regional Airport Commission.

Motion by Ansoerge to approve the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Rushton.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 7 (Ansoerge, Bunek, Lautner, Rentenbach, Rushton, Soutas-Little, Wessell)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Motion was made and supported to approve the agenda as presented by Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.

Motion was made and supported to approve the agenda as presented by the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission.

Public Comment:

Chairman Bunek announced the telephone number for Public Comment: 231-256-8109 and also noted that this meeting is being livestreamed. Emails were also available. There were no public comments received in Leelanau County.

Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners Chairman called for Public Comment – no public comment received.

Northwestern Regional Airport Commission Chairman called for Public Comment – no public comment received.

New Business:

Study Session – Airport Governance Options

- a. Overview – Douglas DeYoung, NRAC presented a verbal overview regarding governance, he noted the makeup of the group formed to review possible governance structures.
- b. Request by both Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties to review a sample of Articles of Incorporation – Airport Authority and Review of potential Amended and Restated Operating Agreement. Attorney for the Airport Commission, Karrie Zeits of Sondee, Racine, and Doren, PLC, reviewed the draft of the Articles of Incorporation of the Northwest Regional Airport Authority, which has been keyed to differentiate between Commission and Authority, Authority, or Commission.

Leelanau County Commissioners asked questions of Zeits and she responded.

Zeits and Klein answered questions from Grand Traverse County and Leelanau County Commissioners.

Break taken at 3:36 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 3:44 p.m.

Both Klein and Zeits continued to answer questions from Grand Traverse County and Leelanau County Commissioners. Doug DeYoung also spoke.

- c. Discussion – Nate Alger, Grand Traverse County Administrator, and Chet Janik, Leelanau County Administrator

Grand Traverse County Administrator Alger spoke regarding his findings after speaking with Kent County. Alger would like some acknowledgment to go in one way or another.

Janik spoke regarding the information he, Alger, and Klein have gathered since last September with their best attempt to draft Articles of Incorporation in the draft document today. They would appreciate feedback and comments to move forward and accomplish the goal of how to proceed before the end of the year.

- d. Next Steps – Kevin Klein, Airport Director Showed a timeline to creating a Regional Airport Authority.
October 13 – Study Session with Grand Traverse County Commissioners, Leelanau County Commissioners, and Airport Commissioner members.
November – Resolution of Intent from each County to become an Authority
December – Hold public hearings in each County to Adopt the Articles of Incorporation
January, 2021 – Appoint Northwest Regional Airport Authority Board members
March, 2021 – Resolution from each County to submit application to the FAA
May, 2021 – Transition airport from Northwestern Regional Airport Commission to Northwest Regional Airport Authority.

Public Comment: (see rules and procedure above)

Chairman Bunek announced the telephone number for Public Comment: 231-256-8109.

No public comments received in Leelanau County.

Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners Chairman called for Public Comment – no public comment received.

Northwestern Regional Airport Commission Chairman called for Public Comment – no public comment received.

Commissioner Comment:

Each of the Leelanau County Commissioners spoke.

Commissioner Soutas-Little thanked everyone for all the work that has gone into the information today. She said she feels more comfortable leaning toward an Authority as of today.

Commissioner Rentenbach said she is in favor of an Authority.

Commissioner Wessell said he is leaning toward an Authority.

Commissioner Ansorge said there may be some cost savings in going with an Authority; however, more information is needed.

Commissioner Lautner said this is a very complex issue and after everything she has heard today, she is not in favor of an Authority at this time.

Commissioner Rushton gave explanation as to why she feels the Authority model will act more efficiently and provide the citizens of the community with an asset of economic growth and leisure travel.

Chairman Bunek said he was skeptical but is in favor of the Authority for all of the reasons discussed here today.

Grand Traverse County: Each of their Commissioners spoke of their thoughts and/or concerns regarding moving forward.

Northwestern Regional Airport Commission: DeYoung spoke saying thank you for the opportunity today for the deep discussions. No other Airport Commissioners spoke.

Adjournment:

Leelanau County was adjourned at 4:43 p.m. by Chairman Bunek.

William J. Bunek, Chairman
Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk
Clerk, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners