

**Joint Airport Zoning Board Minutes**  
**December 6, 2018**  
**Duluth International Airport**  
**Amatuzio A Conference Room**

Chair Kevin Comnick welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

**1. Roll Call:**

**Present:**

Kevin Comnick	Canosia	John Geissler	Hermantown
Steve Kossett	Rice Lake	Teresa Koivula	Rice Lake
Steve Gerads	Duluth	Frank Jewell	St. Louis Co.
Dan Golen	Canosia	Eric Johnson	Hermantown
Pete Stauber	St. Louis Co.		

**Absent:** James Reihl, Bob Pearson and Jeff Anderson, Duluth

**Visitors:** Blaine Peterson, Mary Ann Wittkop, Tom Werner, John Hegstrom, Kaci Nowicki, Benita Crow, Don Monaco, Suzanne Herstad, Kyle Deming

Chair Comnick introduced and welcomed the new Hermantown member Eric Johnson.

2. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Motion by Frank Jewell, seconded by Teresa Koivula to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2018 meeting. All ayes, motion carried.
3. **Agenda Items:** Motion by Teresa Koivula to approve the agenda with a change to move up Unfinished Business A, Update on MnDOT Zoning Reform by Mr. Werner after agenda approval. Seconded by John Geissler. All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Tom Werner, DAA Executive Director, spoke on the State Airport Zoning Reform. He explained why the reform is being pursued and the guiding principles. Questions followed. He overviewed the HF1933/SF2314 legislative quick facts, highlighting the model and custom ordinance options for communities. He encouraged the Board to be prepared to advocate and have their communities write letters of support to the legislative leaders. Chair Comnick thanked Mr. Werner for his guidance in moving forward in this process. He explained the goal for this Board is to have the draft ordinance ready to present by the end of July or August and recommended meeting monthly to accomplish this task. Questions and discussion followed on the process for addressing the input and concerns from each community.

**4. Community Reports:**

- a. Canosia Township – Rescinding the Planning and Zoning and a portion of the

comprehensive plan to St. Louis County -- spoke on process and timeline. Applied for grant to begin eradication for an invasive plant species.

- b. City of Duluth – no new information.
- c. City of Hermantown: Re-elected two incumbent City Councilors; congratulations to Pete Stauber for his election. Wellness Center in progress, goal is to be opened in October of 2019. Working on a new trunk sewer project next year, should help with development in that area. Have built two new fire halls this year in Hermantown, should be moving in this week. Received several community grants for accessible trails and spoke on future progress plans. Discussion followed on other area business developments and the roundabout is a very positive improvement.
- d. City of Rice Lake –New Kwik Trip is open. Have two new City Councilors, John Hegstrom and Jayme Heim. Working on updating the zoning ordinance and spoke on Rice Lake Road access point issues and future development. Discussion followed.
- e. St. Louis County (SLC) – Appears that Beth Olson could be the new appointment to this Board to replace Pete Stauber in January. Truth in Taxation Public Hearing will be tonight. Chair Connick encouraged all communities to partner with SLC to help bring their roads up to county standards. Pete Stauber detailed further.

**5. Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard:**

None

**6. Reports of Committees:**

No committees at this time.

**7. Communications:**

Chair Connick summarized on the letters. Explained the letter to leaders in the community urging them to support this Board as we move forward on this next phase of drafting the new zoning ordinance.

**8. Unfinished Business:**

- a. Mr. Peterson introduced Ms. Benita Crow and Kaci Nowicki, SEH, to overview on the Runway 9/27 reconstruction project and detail on the Phase 3 planning, timeline stages and processes for the project. Described the public outreach meetings and newsletters. Questions and discussion followed. Reviewed the Master Plan project update process. Mr. Werner detailed further emphasizing the public involvement and outreach. Questions followed.

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**9. New Business, Motions and Resolutions**

Chair Connick explained the JAZB will begin to meet monthly, the third Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. Notices will be sent to each Board member.

Chair Connick opened the meeting for any other topics. John Geissler mentioned the Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5 p.m. at City Hall. Chair Connick congratulated Pete Stauber for his election as Congressman and expressed his appreciation for his dedication and professionalism in serving on this Board -- he will be missed. Happy holidays to everyone.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Frank Jewell seconded by John Geissler to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried. Chair Connick adjourned the December 6<sup>th</sup> JAZB meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Wittkop  
Recording Secretary