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BLUE WATER CHAPTER 979



St. Clair County International Airport

177 Ash Drive
Kimball, MI 48074

Meeting Minutes January 14, 2025

Call to Order: At 4:31 p.m.

Roll Call: Henry Hincherrick, Mark Schwab, John Neil, Ivan Smith, Rich Moskaitis

Guests: Kristin and Morgan Pillon

Minutes of Last Meeting: Motion to approve by Ivan Smith, supported by Rich Moskaitis. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer John Neil reported:

Checking acct: \$1205.23

Savings acct: \$7645.72

Huntington CD: \$10,000

John indicated that the Chapter's membership to EAA national has been paid.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as read by Rich Moskaitis, supported by Ivan Smith. Motion carried.

New business:

President Hincherrick had received some recognition certificates and pins for some of the members from EAA National. He distributed them to the recipients that were present at the meeting. He will get the others to those who were not present when he sees them.

Henry also reported that US Customs had contacted John Neil to talk about youth in aviation. Henry, John, and Bob Thoms met with a US Customs rep and two RESA (Reginal Educational Service Agency) reps to discuss putting together such a program for high school seniors. Ivan Smith suggested that Rick Orzel be contacted to see what advice and ideas he may have for developing such a program since he teaches aviation mechanics to youth down in the Detroit area. Guest Kristin Pillon suggested getting the word out to area schools to promote the program to younger students as well and check to see how much interest there might be for such a program.

Airport updates:

Airport director, Catie Fiore, was not present to report on airport project status, but President Hincherrick had spoken to her previously. **The 2025 PHN Wings and Wheels event is scheduled for Saturday, August 9th.** Self-Serve 100LL gas pump is still accessible 24/7 and has been working out well. Ms. Fiore says the proposal to move the AWOS system is in the hands of the State of Michigan and Governor Whitmer has slated funds for the improvement of airports. The AWOS phone access is still not functioning properly. ATT and a company named ARROW will need to get together to get it fixed. She had a meeting with the FAA regarding the fate of runway 10-28. The FAA said that the runway is eligible for re-construction. Ms. Fiore sent out an email to the PHN community that she has email addresses for describing the airport policy regarding snow removal.

AIRPLANE PROJECTS:

SE5 biplane: John Neil reported that the work has been mostly halted due to some insulation issues in his hangar. However, Rich Moskaitis is working on the rudder pedal assembly and linkage. Rich indicated that some hydraulic parts will need to be identified and ordered for the brakes. He also suggested that inventory be taken of the Chapter's hardware and new stock be ordered as required. John Neil had contacted John Beattie's family to get an appointment to see what John B had in his collection of hardware that might be useful on the chapter's airplane projects. He has not heard back yet.

Zenith 750 STOL: Henry received the 2nd gas strut and mounting hardware to attach them to the doors. The wing strut end brackets for the attachment to the fuselage have been installed into the ends of the wing struts. The jury strut brackets have been drilled in preparation for installation to the wings. Henry will investigate the anti-corrosion primer needed to be applied to the wing surface before the brackets are attached. Wing installation is only a couple of weeks away! John Neil said he can provide some 2 x 4 boards to construct the temporary wing supports and will deliver them to the hangar in a day or two.



LEFT: *The crew leveling, steadying, and drilling the wing strut and attach brackets ensuring the holes are perpendicular and inline. (photo courtesy of Dennis Wills)*

BELOW: *Youth in action!!! Morgan shows off her new skill using the drill press and vise to drill the mounting holes in the Zenith's jury strut mounting brackets.*



Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Neil, supported by Rich Moskaitis. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Reminder: scheduled work on the chapter's airplane projects:

Wednesday afternoons 4:00pm – 6:00ish.

Thursday mornings 9:30am-ish (after 8:00am breakfast at 4-star restaurant in Marysville) – noon.