



AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 17, 2026
6:00pm
Albert Lea Airport

In attendance were:

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Darren Schone	x	
Gerald Molkenthin		x
Jerry Morstad	x	
Mark Light		x
Michael Bowman	x	
Shelby Wang		x
Steve Nesse	x	

Ex-Officios

Steven Jahnke, City Engineer/Director of Public Works
Reid Olson, Councilmen
Jim Hanson, Airport Manager
Jill Steinhauer, Public Works Office Specialist
Chuck Sandager, Hangar Tenant
John Ryther, Hangar Tenant
William Kozowski

Several board member terms expired at the end of last year. Craig Ludtke and Chuck Sandager were replaced with new board members Shelby Wang and Steve Nesse. Shelby is the owner/operator of the flight school (Sunrise Aviation) and Steve Nesse has been involved at the airport for many years and has served on the airport board in the past.

Introductions and greetings were held. Jerry Morstad called the meeting to order.

1) **Elections**

The 2025 positions were as follows:

Jerry Morstad (President)
Darren Schone (Vice President)
Craig Ludtke (Secretary)

Jerry Morstad made the motion to elect Darren Schone as President, Steve Nesse as Vice President and Michael Bowman as secretary, Darren Schone seconded it. The motion was approved.

2) Approval of Board Minutes

Michael Bowman made a motion to approve the December minutes, Jerry Morstad seconded it. The minutes were approved.

3) Master Plan Study

The plan was submitted to the FAA for review in the fall of 2022. The FAA has provided their comments, the State was the holdup but has just recently responded with comments. Steven Jahnke will continue to work with Mead & Hunt (previous airport consultant) and Bolton & Menk to get this completed/finalized.

4) Project Updates

The main focus of 2026 is the snow removal equipment (SRE) building door replacement project, the design of the new t-hangar unit and the repairs/updates to the existing hangars.

In November, MNDOT Aeronautics notified the City that funding for the SRE door replacement is available if the work could be completed in 2026. The project involves replacing 14' doors with one wider door to better suit the larger equipment that has progressed over the years. The estimated cost (including engineering) is as follows:

Total Cost	\$359,500
State share	\$251,650 (70%)
City share	\$107,850 (30%)

Bolton & Menk will have more details regarding the SRE door replacement project and t-hangar design at the next meeting.

The hangar repairs/updates project will be split into two separate projects, door replacements/repairs and roof repairs, and resubmitted for state funds. With the anticipation of the master plan being completed the City is hopeful the projects will score higher and splitting the projects will increase the odds of at least one project being approved for state funds. If grant funds are not approved for these projects the City will solicit quotes to get this work completed with City funds.

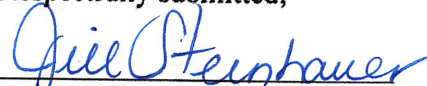
5) New Business

The City recently sought out proposals for an Airport Fixed-Base Operator (FBO), the current FBO agreement has not been renewed for many years. The City received four proposal and has started the review process. The next step is to interview the selected candidates, city staff along with one or two airport advisory board members will be asked to sit in on the interviews. The interviews will be held in April with final selection expected by May and contract award by June/July.

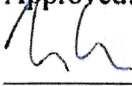
The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:00pm** at the airport.

Michael Bowman made a motion to adjourn, Jerry Morstad seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Steinhauer
Public Works Administrative Asst.

Approved:


Michael Bowman
Airport Advisory Board Secretary