

**Gogebic-Iron County Airport
Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

**Gogebic-Iron County Airport
E5560 Airport Rd.
Ironwood, MI 49938**

**September 14, 2026
3:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M. by Chairman Matonich.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Present: (3) Mr. Hanson, Mr. Siirila, Mr. Matonich

Absent: (2) Mr. Finco, Mr. Lorenson

Others Present: Jeremy Busch, Kristi Freeman, Joshua Kallas, Sallie Holtz, Stephanie Matonich, Marc Hesting, James Perri, Bernie, Dakota, Epi, Brenda-Globe

Approval of the Minutes

1. August 10, 2026 – Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Airport Board on Agenda Items (5 Minute Limit)

None

Appearances

1. Marc Hesting – Denver Air Connection, VP of Finance

Mr. Hesting introduced himself as a resource with a background in finance and aviation (as a pilot), and now in network planning. He indicated he would like to offer ideas at the appropriate time, noting that the biggest priority is getting people on the plane. Mr. Busch stated that his biggest priority is reviewing the flight schedules. Mr. Matonich noted his priorities as better communication, good service, and increased ridership.

The board discussed the possibility of increasing flights to Chicago, including the option of two daily Chicago flights while reducing the number of flights to Minneapolis, with flight estimates at approximately 70% Chicago and 30% Minneapolis. Mr. Hesting agreed to send a proposal to the board prior to any schedule changes. Mr. Busch stated he would support a color tour flight, similar to the program currently offered in Muskegon.

New Business

1. Propane Bids

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to open two sealed bids received from Krist LP and Hilgy's.

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila and supported by Mr. Hanson to accept the propane bid from Hilgy's for \$1.299/gallon up to 10,000 gallons.

Roll Call

Yes: (3) Mr. Siirila, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Matonich

No: (0) None

Motion Carried

2. FY2027 Operating and Capital Outlay Budgets

Although Gogebic County's appropriations have not yet been approved, the board proceeded after a brief discussion. **A motion** was made by Mr. Siirila and supported by Mr. Hanson to approve the FY2027 Operating and Capital Outlay budgets.

Roll Call

Yes: (3) Mr. Siirila, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Matonich

No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Manager's Report

1. The Airport's Triennial Exercise on August 29th went well, with strong participation. Participants from the Wisconsin side were unable to attend due to the Line 5 emergency.
2. The airport has a new phone system; the same as Gogebic County.
3. Mr. Busch provided an update on the snowblower status. Mead & Hunt submitted specifications for the unit, and a bid was received under the requested amount. It was subsequently determined that the specifications called for a unit larger than the airport requires under the AIP Handbook, which bases equipment size on operational numbers only and does not account for actual snow removal needs. The state is requiring a rebid with updated specifications; however, Mr. Busch does not want to bid on a unit that would be underpowered for the airport's needs. The counties indicated they would provide letters of support if needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to receive the report and place on file.

Approval of the Reports

1. Airline Performance Reports – August 2026

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Report 1 as presented and place on file.

2. Accounts Receivable Aging Summary – August 2026
3. Outstanding Balances Report – August 2026
4. Aviation Fuel Report – August 2026

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Reports 2-4 as presented and place on file.

Appropriations

1. Approval of the Claims & Accounts

- a. Prepaids – July 2026
- b. Credit Cards – June 2026
- c. Accounts Payable – August 2026

2. Approval of the Revenue & Expenditure Report – August 2026

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila and supported by Mr. Hanson to approve Appropriation 1 – Approval of the Claims & Accounts a, b & c and Appropriation 2 – Approval of the Revenue & Expenditure Report as presented and place on file.

Roll Call

Yes: (3) Mr. Siirila, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Matonich
No: (0) None

Motion Carried

Other Matters

None

Public Comment

Ms. Holtz introduced Joshua Kallas, the interim airline manager. Mr. Kallas is committed to customer service, honesty and transparency. He provided his phone number to board members. Mr. Hanson stated that the pipeline emergency hit the fire departments hard. He praised the firemen for their work.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Siirila, supported by Mr. Hanson and carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting by the call of Chairman Matonich. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 P.M.

10/12/2026
Date Approved

James Lorenson
James Lorenson, Recording Secretary

Kristi A. Freeman
Minutes Submitted by Kristi Freeman
Administrative Secretary, Gogebic-Iron County Airport