

Gratiot County Board of Commissioners
Airport Advisory Committee
March 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners' Airport Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at the Gratiot Community Airport terminal. The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. with a quorum present.

Members Present: George Bailey, Kevin Beeson, Timothy Dolehanty, Aerie Ripley, John Leppien (2:11),

Members Absent: Kurt Giles, Bart Stoneman

Others Present: Dennis McDonald

It was moved by Aerie Ripley, supported by Kevin Beeson, to accept the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

It was moved by George Bailey, supported by Kevin Beeson, to approve the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

Chairperson DeRoso distributed a MI Neighborhood grant allocation report for discussion. A new grant period begins on October 1. There are some changes to the program, but grant requirements are like previous years.

Airport Manager Dennis McDonald reviewed the February 2026 Airport Manager's Report and provided an update on airport security camera upgrades.

Dennis McDonald presented the Prein & Newhof bid tabulation summary for Taxiway and Runway 9/27 lighting and signage rehabilitation. It was moved by Kevin Beeson, supported by Aerie Ripley, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners accept the proposal submitted by J. Ranck Electric as the most responsive to the needs of Gratiot Community Airport at a total cost not to exceed \$436,650.00. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

Timothy Dolehanty reported that the airport agricultural land lease request for bids was extended in light of a publication error. Proposals will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting scheduled for April 7, 2026.

Dennis McDonald stated a vendor encountered challenges while upgrading fuel services software resulting in price display signage errors. He also provided updates about deer management and automated external defibrillator (AED) installation.

The Committee discussed options for runway and taxiway pavement crack sealing. It was moved by Kevin Beeson, supported by George Bailey, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Road Commission to provide pavement crack sealing services at total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

Dennis McDonald shared information about the Runway 9/27 precision approach path indicator (PAPI) repair project. He explained that PAPI is a system of lights installed alongside a runway to provide pilots with visual descent guidance during final approach and landing.

The Committee discussed the status of the Airport phone number and internet service. Tim Dolehanty will consult with County Information Technology Director about both systems.

Dennis McDonald announced that two new hanger leases were being prepared and that he would seek quotes to clear 10 acres of Airport property north of Seaman Road. He also stated that correspondence confirming County interest in a grant to build a new terminal building was provided to MDOT.

There were no additional items from members, and there was no public comment.

It was moved by John Leppien, supported by Aeric Ripley, to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED. The meeting was declared adjourned at 2:53 p.m.