
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: TOWN OF LA POINTE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: MICHAEL DALZELL – AIRPORT MANAGER
SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT
DATE: 27 JANUARY 2014
CC: TOWN OF LA POINTE CLERK

The increase in overnight tie-down fees at the Airport, which was accomplished after the Airport budget was finalized and without my input, has already caused some negative feedback. You were all copied on the emails from Walt Fricke and Dave Donkers. I have done a telephone poll of 13 small general aviation airports around the state and Sky Harbor in Duluth as to what they charge for overnight tie-down. Smaller, unattended airports like ours; Antigo, Delavan, Park Falls, Siren and Crandon flat out don't charge. Still small but with an FBO selling fuel, etc. charge \$5 for singles and twins (Sky Harbor), \$7 s & t (Rice Lake) or \$3/\$5 (Land O Lakes) with the first night waived if they buy fuel. Price County has a tie-down fee of \$10 posted but never collects (an inducement for more fuel sales). Door County, one of the larger, *attended*, airports in my survey, charges \$10 for singles, \$20 for twins (first night waived with fuel purchase) but the FBO attendant added that there is resistance with some pilots arriving after hours and departing before opening to avoid paying. For many years we charged \$5 and \$10. We only increased our fees to \$10 and \$15 around '09 or '10. Just last year it went to \$11 and \$16 without my input. It is just a theory but, having to come up with that extra one dollar bill may have put some people off. To go to \$16 and \$21 makes us even higher than Door County Airport which offers fuel, a courtesy car, rental hangar space, car rental and someone there 7 days a week. As long as 4R5 is an unattended airport with no services, we need to keep the fees reasonable enough that pilots will be willing to, without coercion and with our honor system, pay. It is my recommendation that we go back to \$10 for singles and \$15 for twins. In my talks with airport and FBO managers, the consensus seems to be the higher you go the more resistance you meet. We need to keep it not only friendly but easy for pilots to comply with our requested fees.

As a result of my meeting with Pete Clarke last Wednesday, I am ordering another portable radio to carry with me to help in keeping track of air traffic at the Airport.

Respectfully,