

Payette Airport Property History

In early 1929 the Idaho State Legislature passed a law establishing the Division of Aeronautics to assist communities to establish Airports. The City of Payette was the first town to ask for formal approval under the program, which resulted in the construction of 36 new airports in Idaho by the end of 1935. Originally, the Payette Airport had two runways built in the traditional “X” configuration. By 1950, the east-west runway was abandoned and the northwest-southeast, runway was retained. In 1962, the dirt-gravel runway was reconditioned and a stabilized turf surface was established. The runway was first paved in 1970, and runway lights installed. The Payette Kiwanis Club sponsored the Original Airport project.

(The above information was obtained from Wayne Pickerill, State of Idaho Division of Aeronautics).

The first piece of airport property was purchased from the State of Idaho General fund endowment land for a sum of \$800.00 on December 13, 1935. The final title transfer was completed forty years later 2 December 1975, signed by governor Cecil D. Andrus.

Several other pieces were purchased over the years:

- ✓ The second piece of property (the north part) was purchased from the Federal Land Bank of Spokane for the sum of \$160.00 and tax considerations on 19 February, 1936.
- ✓ The third piece of property, (the south part) was purchased from S.J. Millbrook for the sum of \$400.00 on 4 January, 1941.
- ✓ The fourth piece of property, (the south Part) was purchased from J. M. Ferney for the sum of \$450.00 on 18 January, 1941.
- ✓ The fifth piece of property (the south Part) was attained from Payette County for the sum of \$315 on 14 April 1941.
- ✓ The sixth piece of property, (the last south part) was purchased from the Federal Land Bank of Spokane for the sum of \$100.00 and other valuables on 25 July, 1942.
- ✓ The last piece of property, (the lower cart shed area) obtained from Armin and Daphne Washburn for value received on 14 December, 1987.

Total cost was two thousand two hundred twenty-five dollars \$ 2,225.00.

On February 6, 1961, Payette City Council members Schultz, Grimes, Baer, Maule, Kinney and Masingill, passed a resolution to enter an agreement with Payette Municipal Development Corporation (PMDC), to build an airport, golf course and park facilities without cost or expense to the City. The agreement called for all property and improvements to return to the City after five years. It also resolved to lease to the PMDC farm land on Airport Property for a minimal fee for five years with income receive there from for purposes of improving airport property only. *(Moved by Masingill seconded by Schultz).* Since then, the lease with PMDC has been modified several times:

- ✓ On 1 January, 1965, a new twenty-year lease with PMDC was signed. Gone was the minimal fee for leased property. Still included in the lease was the intention to build an airport, golf course and park facilities without cost or expense to the City. Any income received from the airport property

was required to be spent on the improvements, operation and maintenance of the said facilities placed thereon.

- ✓ On March 18, 1965, a modified lease with PMDC was signed which removed the requirement to improve the airport and park facilities. The income from the sub-leased farm ground around the airport was now to go to the improvements, operation and maintenance of the golf course only.
- ✓ On August 13, 1979, a new lease with PMDC extending to January 1, 2018, was signed with the same conditions existing as in the previously modified agreement.
- ✓ On 17 November 1997, a new lease to 1 January 2050 was signed. The same conditions exist as in the lease of August 13, 1979.

From 1962 to date, the State of Idaho Division of Aeronautics has assisted with funding of several Airport improvement projects such as construction and development plans, tie down and taxiway reconstruction, patching, crack sealing, seal coating, pavement marking, rotating beacon, and runway lighting. Some recent improvement projects at the Airport have included:

- ✓ In the 2003 to 2004 time frame The Airport lounge was upgraded to provide an office and meeting room Aeronautics provided \$70,002.30 with the City of Payette in kind materials, labor and money being \$60,631.71.
- ✓ In the 2007 to 2011-time frame there were four new hangers built with space for sixteen airplanes.
- ✓ In 2008, the City of Payette, with help from Payette County and a grant from the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, installed a parallel Taxiway for \$127,000.00.
- ✓ In 2011, the City of Payette installed a new fuel tank to provide 24/7 avgas and mogas to pilots.
- ✓ In 2011, the City of Payette, with help from Payette County and a grant from the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, to improved the Runway with a new overlay for \$279,000.00.
- ✓ In 2015 the Idaho Division of Aeronautics Started to upgrade the Master Airport Plan at a cost of \$00.00. A value of over \$20,000.00.
- ✓ In 2015 the City of Payette and a \$375000.00 grant from the Idaho Division of Aeronautics and \$175000.00 in kind value from the City to extend the runway by 500 feet, to compensate for the displaced threshold on the north end.
- ✓ 9-6-2016 The city Approved the runway extension and taxiway preparation Bid by Diamond Contractors LLC for 340,972.00.
- ✓ 10-4-2016 Diamond Contractors started the runway and taxiway extension
- ✓ 11-11-2016 Diamond Contractors has completed the runway and taxiway extension

Without the Division of Aeronautics, the Payette Municipal Airport would not be where it is today.

The value of the Payette Airport property, Scotch Pines Golf Course, and surrounding farm land is PRICELESS!

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