

By Robert Bogue, Edgar County Resident and
taxpayer. 11/21/2012

I'm here to air grievances in regards to the operation of a public facility, the Edgar County Airport. At the conclusion of my remarks, I will be asking, for the suspension of a new airport policy and for the immediate dismissal of the airport manager (Mr. Jim Wells).

Let me explain. I attended the last Airport Board meeting on November 13th, 2012. In attendance: Jimmy Wells, Chris Patrick, Verlin Funkhauser, Ben Jennes, Carl Farnham, Kevin Trogden, Robert Bogue, Rusty Bogue, Glenn Hutchins.

The chairman's call for new business resulted in a response from the Airport Manager. In "new business" and in this meeting and the Airport manager indicated he had received two complaints regarding the breastfeeding of a baby at the airport. He went on to say, he felt this created an "unprofessional environment" that "this was not a nursery and that he would not allow this".

When asked who complained about this breast feeding, Jimmy further indicated an Edgar County airport employee, David, had complained several times about breastfeeding. The lunch room in question is a public access area.

Jimmy further indicated; for the past two months he had authorized this employee's use of a county airport vehicle for transportation to and from his residence on a daily basis because of his feelings regarding breastfeeding.

Subsequent to this meeting: this mother returned to her part time job at the airport (she is not a county employee). Her employer was then challenged by the airport manager. In this discussion, Mr. Wells demanded the child be immediately removed from the airport and never return.

-First, let me say that breastfeeding of an infant in a public facility is a protected right in the entire State of Illinois. This includes the Edgar County Airport. This law doesn't exclude any race, creed, color gender or age.

Statements made by this airport manager are discriminatory, improper, and in violation of Illinois Law. I'm attaching a copy of that law.

Mr. Wells statements also reflect a dangerous opinion that he can abridge individual civil rights based on race, creed, color, gender or age. It further reflects the notion; that members of the public in good standing can their access to public facilities denied by this airport manager. Forget the fact, the airport has rented space to a business and this ban tortuously interferes with the operation of this business by banning customers, employees and family members of that business. This is simply wrong!

In conclusion, I'm asking for the immediate dismissal of Mr. Wells for his abuse of

authority, his inability to manage county assets (including personnel), general ignorance of state laws, and hostile attitude towards the public for these and other reasons. I'm also asking for an independent audit of all airport operations to include facility use, revenues collected and compliance of all parties with airport policies.

Thank you for your time.