

AVIATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2019 - 7:00 pm
Plainville Municipal Center – Room 300

PRESENT: The following members were present: Byron Treado (*by phone*) Richard Piotrowski, Robert Mastrianni, Reade Clemens, Mark DePucchio, David King, and Chuck Zettergren (arrived at 7:35 pm).

STAFF: Robert Lee, Town Manager

VISITORS: Nick Scata, Interstate Aviation (arrived at 7:10 pm), Gerry D'Amico, AECOM, Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary, and Joe Corlis.

I. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Richard Piotrowski.
There was a quorum.

II. Old Business

1. Review and approve June 27, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes

Mr. DePucchio made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 27, 2019 Special Meeting as amended. Mr. Clemens seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously by members present.

III. Other Business

- 2020 – 2024 Airport CIP Discussion (Proposed Five Year Plan) was discussed with anticipated funding to be submitted to the FAA. Mr. Lee said that the figures represent budget placeholders and that there will be more information provided following a review by the Connecticut Aviation Authority staff.

Once the design is completed there will be a better idea of what the cost estimate will be.

Mr. Mastrianni said that the cost of the fence is very high. Mr. D'Amico said that this cost is from the airport layout plan that was done in 2009 with the cost of fencing being \$30 - \$40 per foot. If fencing has to go through a wetland, approval is required by DEEP. Anything that includes federal money requires approval by DEEP.

Mr. Lee said that other items were elevated to the front of the list of importance which then put fencing after these items.

The 2020 – 2024 CIP Plan received positive responses from Mr. Mastrianni, Mr. DePucchio, Mr. Treado and Mr. Piotrowski. Not everyone on the commission responded.

Mr. DePucchio commented that buildings at the Martha's Vineyard Airport were approved for federal funding, i.e., fire suppression building, etc. He questioned why Robertson has not received the same. It was mentioned that the airport at Martha's Vineyard is the main source of transportation on the island giving it greater leverage for funding. Mr. DePucchio would like to see federal funding at Robertson for a terminal building including FBO, offices and a restaurant.

Mr. D'Amico said that the answer is "no" for federal funding for buildings (including hangars) at Robertson until all safety concerns are resolved. Among the concerns are major cracks in the runway which need to be addressed before winter. Dominic in Public Works thinks that there is not enough oil in the components that make up the paving material. Tilcon will do excavation to determine a cause for the cracks. The runway has to be safety compliant (ALP) at the north end with area identified in front of or behind the runway to accommodate aircraft that over run or land short. Mr. O'Leary received a financial hardship waiver based on a shorter zone when he was the owner of Robertson Airport. This will be cited in future master plans and will need to be resolved.

Mr. Lee will email his recommendations for solutions to the commission members following Tilcon's excavation. It is estimated that the excavation will cost at least \$80,000. This number may change based on what Tilcon discovers.

- Financial Report

Mr. Lee gave the financial report. There are two reports. One is a summary of the second half of fiscal 2019 with a fund balance of \$539,230.04 as of June 30. This balance is minus grant reimbursements. The fund balance as of August 31, 2019 is \$558,801.45. The other report is for fiscal 2020 with a budget gain/loss of \$19,571.41.

- AECOM Report

Mr. D'Amico said that the geotechnical and topographic survey has been completed. The design phase has begun and information from it helped Mr. Lee with the preparation of the CIP update. Mr. D'Amico spoke with the FAA as there is a conflict with the airport layout report and the airport plan itself. The current layout plan has the taxiway at 35 feet wide from the pavement. The report says "future" taxiway would be 25 feet wide from the pavement. In addition, with change to standards, prohibits the 135 degree angle at the north end from the taxiway to the threshold. It is supposed to be 90 degrees. Modification of the

standards needs to be done to prove that it is too expensive to extend it out to a right angle. Mr. D'Amico said that because the plan is a rehabilitation and not a redesign, it will go forward with a 35 feet wide taxiway.

- Property/Building Assessment Discussion

Town Staff will review the lease to determine what items are the responsibility of the Town versus Interstate Aviation. Attached are two separate documents regarding repairs/maintenance. There are some differences in the order and priority, therefore, per the Town Manager, both are attached to the minutes. Discussion will continue at the meeting in October.



Airport - Repairs & Maintenance (Partn
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- Interstate Aviation Report

Mr. Scata provided the numbers for August 31, 2019. There were 35 planes in tie-downs. Fuel sales were 100LL – 3664.8 gals; Jet A sold 2515.3 gals. There were 0 overages.

Mr. Scata said that he met with the Fire Marshall and learned that FBO (alarm/suppression) is not required per the current building code. An assessment will be done by Allstate Fire Alarm to determine costs and whether this should be further pursued. Lighting and signs will be assessed at that time. Another tour of the airport will be scheduled in the fall.

- Any Other Items

Mr. Lee and Mr. Scata will check building replacement insurance policies to confirm what is covered and that there is proper coverage.

IV. Public Comment

Mr. Corlis said that the priority list of responsibilities should be firmed up and that thought should be given on how to attract more customers to the airport.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Clemens to adjourn the meeting. Mr. King seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guite

Dawn Guite
Recording Secretary

9/24/19 Email from Chairman Byron Treado to Aviation Commission

Members:

Good morning,

I want to start by apologizing for getting disconnected during the end of the property assessment discussion. I also want to say that I do not agree with making improvements and renovations for the property assessment report recommendations based on income from a renegotiated lease. As owners of the airport I believe it is incumbent upon the commission to make recommendations to protect and improve the towns asset. Concurrent with those recommendations should be a separate discussion about a lease extension or renewal factoring the information that we have in hand. I do agree that there is a priority of improvements to be done however those decisions should not be based on the lease. The town manager and FBO continue to work together and I don't believe that we as a commission should be adding to or convoluting their discussions and efforts to address the concerns stated in the report. I regret that I did not share these comments that last nights meeting but I felt that I needed to make them known this morning. I do believe that we are all working towards a common goal to improve our airport and town asset and that we should place more reliance upon the work of the report and the cooperative meetings between the town manager and FBO. I absolutely agree that the commission must consider costs and a reserve plan to maintain liquidity as the improvements are being made over the ten year plan. Going forward I would like to see the improvements, the lease, and reserve all being discussed separately so that discussions are clear and insightful. Thank you for your time and consideration of this email. Byron