

MINUTES
Aviation Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2023 – 7:00pm
Robertson Airport Classroom

PRESENT: Alex Cal; Frank Cawley; Mark DePucchio; David King (virtual); Robert Mastrianni; Dominick Moschini

ABSENT: Reade Clemens

STAFF: Michael Paulhus, *Town Manager*; Andy Cirioli, *Assistant Town Manager*; Robert Lee, *Consultant* (virtual)

GUESTS: David Underwood, *Town Council Vice Chair*; Gerry D’Amico, *AECOM*; Brian Romano; Richard Bouvier

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair King at 7:02 PM.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting

Motion: David King moved to accept the minutes of the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Second: Frank Cawley

Vote: 5 in favor / 0 opposed / 1 abstention (Alex Cal). **Motion Carries.**

III. Announcements and Reports

1. Town Manager’s Report

a. Administrative Building Roof Replacement

Ultimate Construction reported to Town staff that the roof panels will be delivered later this week. They will also be delivering the equipment needed for installation. We anticipate project completion by the end of June.

b. Maintenance Hangar 4 Roof Leak

Since Buildings and Grounds inspected and repairs the exhaust vent on the roof, there have been no further leaks. If the leak reappears, Town staff has asked Interstate to record of video of the leak and directly report it to the Town and Ultimate Construction.

- c. **Hangar 1 Asphalt Roof**
Buildings and Grounds have been asked to inspect the hangar 1 asphalt roof. To complete this inspection thoroughly, they need access to a lift. We should have a report on the roof this summer.

- d. **LED Rotating Beacons**
Buildings and Grounds is unfamiliar with this equipment and with the design or operation of the light. Town staff is going to work with Interstate to get the information required for Buildings and Grounds to provide insight on the issue.

- e. **Living Tribute for William O’Leary**
Winterberry Gardens installed the landscape feature last week. Watering and maintenance instructions were relayed to Interstate Aviation. Town staff is receiving quotes for the plaque. We will keep you updated on this project and the planning of the dedication ceremony. Mr. Mastrianni asked if a dedication plaque can be made for Stan Robertson.

- f. **NEXGEN Car Show – Sunday, 4/30/23**
The NEXGEN Car Show hosted their event near Hangar 1 on Sunday, April 30th. There was heavy rain that day that this seriously impacted attendance. The Event organizers reported that they did not make a profit on the event, and Town staff is waiting to receive a breakdown on income and expenses. Mr. DePucchio requested that we explore expenses first prior to determining if they should have an opportunity to host the event at the Airport next year.

- g. **Rotary Club Penny Sale – Saturday, 5/13/23**
Rotary Club hosted their annual Drive-In Penny Sale on Saturday, May 13th. The event was well attended and without any issues.

- h. **Community Project Funding Application**
The Town Manager’s Office received notification from Senators Blumenthal’s and Murphy’s Offices that the Town application for new hangars has been selected to be brought before the U.S. Senate for further consideration. This means both applications in the House and the Senate have been moved on to the next phase of the application process. We are not likely to hear another update until later this calendar year.

i. **Joint Robertson Airport Lease Negotiation Sub-Committee**

The sub-committee is meeting and working with a consultant to help determine the best ways to structure the contract. No further update at this time.

2. AECOM's Report

AECOM submitted a report to the Commission, including the LED rotating beacon; PAPI, AWOS, Segmented Circle, and Wind Cone; and Perimeter Fence.

Mr. D'Amico reported that Moulison mobilized on site Monday, April 24, with work to begin later that week. AECOM has Resident Engineer [Derek Staub] on site daily. AECOM hosts weekly construction meetings with Contractor, Town, FBO] to discuss progress and construction schedule.

Mr. D'Amico reported that bid for the Perimeter Fence project was opened on April 26, 2023. The only bid was from Eagle Fence in Plainville, CT for \$439,875. The FAA Project Application was submitted to FAA May 5th. Construction anticipated September-November.

Mr. DePucchio asked if it was unusual that we only received one bidder. Mr. D'Amico said that many companies were informed of and invited to bid. Mr. Lee asked if the FAA had an opinion on the Town only receiving one bid. Mr. D'Amico replied that FAA has been informed of the process, but there has not been a response.

Mr. D'Amico inquired about the Town purchasing land from the Carling property. Mr. King stated that this possible land acquisition is in the master plan. Town Manager Paulhus responded that he would talk with Town Planner, Mark DeVoe and the Realtors.

Mr. DePucchio asked about the total height of the AWOS tower. Mr. D'Amico responded with 18-20 feet.

3. Interstate Aviation's Report

Interstate Aviation submitted a report to the Commission. The report included a financial report.

IV. Discussions of Interest

1. T Hangars

No update.

2. Status of Property Release

No update.

3. Crack Sealing on Runway

AECOM will be providing the Town with some possible recommendations and best practices.

V. Old Business

VI. New/Other Business

- Mr. DePucchio asked about public signage for the observation area and if that area could be promoted on social media and in newspapers. Town Manager Paulhus responded that once the area is completed, he will discuss that with Nick Scata.

VII. Public Comments

- Mr. Romano complemented the observation area and asked about the gates into the observation area and from the observation area to the apron area. Mr. DePucchio said the gates will be addressed as a part of the Fencing project. Mr. Romano also reminded the Commission about AOPA.
- Mr. Bouvier spoke to issues regarding helicopters operating near and on the taxiway. His concerns pertained to possible damage to aircraft due to rocks and debris being kicked up from the spinning rotor. Town Manager Paulhus said he will open a dialogue with Interstate and HTX to address the issue going forward.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: Frank Cawley moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Robert Mastrianni

Vote: 6 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstentions. **Motion Carries.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Cirioli, *Assistant Town Manager*