

MINUTES
AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION

March 11, 2014
Regular Meeting

The Airport Advisory Commission of the City of Farmington met on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 4:00 PM, in the Executive Conference Room in the Municipal Building, 800 Municipal Drive, Farmington, New Mexico.

Members Present: Chairman Terry Simcoe
Richard Neely
John Arrington
Chairman Pro-Tem Tony Bennett
Wayne Mangum
Steve White

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Robert Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Mike Lewis, Airport Manager
Jessica Platero, Secretary Pro Temp
Chad Kaiser, Airport Operations & Maintenance

Others Present: Jesse Beard, Land Owner at Airport

APPROVAL OF MARCH 11, 2014 AGENDA

Comm. Neely, seconded by Comm. Bennett, moved to approve the March 11, 2014 Airport Advisory Commission Agenda. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairman Simcoe, there being a quorum present; the following proceedings were duly had and taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF THE AAC

Comm. White, seconded by Comm. Arrington, moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2014, regular meeting of the AAC. Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. **Introduction of New Airport Maintenance Person:** The City has hired Mr. Chad Kaiser as the new Airport Maintenance and Operations person, filling the spot vacated by Mr. Lyle Pruitt. Mr. Jon Guinta has been training Mr. Kaiser in all aspects of Airport Maintenance and Operations. He is a welcome addition to the Airport Staff. Should you need Mr. Kaiser's assistance in airfield related matters, he can be contacted at 505-320-1861.
- B. **Introduction of New Airport Manager:** The City has offered the position of Airport Manager to Mr. Mike Lewis. Mr. Lewis will begin work on Monday, March 10th. Mr. Lewis has been invited to attend the AAC meeting to address any questions or comments the Commission or public may have.
- C. **Update on Great Lakes Aviation Issues:** Recently Great Lakes has suffered a great deal of cancellations and flight delays. Mr. Robert Campbell spoke with representatives from Great Lakes in regards to these matters. Mr. Campbell will discuss in further detail the information he has received.

Staff Recommendation:

Discussion only, no recommendation

Discussion:

Mr. Robert Campbell introduced Michael Lewis and briefly noted Mike's qualifications. Mr. Campbell then introduced Jessica Platero, who is temporarily filling in for Janelle North. He then introduced Mr. Chad Kaiser, the newly hired Airport Maintenance person. As there was no further discussion of the new employees, Mr. Campbell moved on to the update on Great Lakes.

Mr. Campbell stated that even though the cancellations with Great Lakes were horrible, they are making an effort to contact passengers and make accommodations as best they can. He stated that he did visit with Mr. Chuck Howell, CEO of Great Lakes Airlines, and he acknowledged that the pilot shortage has made a significant impact on their operations. Mr. Campbell indicated that Great Lakes is routing more of its aircraft to Farmington because we are a maintenance base. For this reason there is a flight to Phoenix again. Additionally, Great Lakes has started a pilot training course out of Cheyenne, Wyoming so they can replenish their pilots.

There was no further discussion

Airport Advisory Commission Recommendation

No recommendation, information only.

UPDATE BY COMM. ARRINGTON ON JESSE BEARD PROPERTY

At the January 14, 2014 Airport Advisory Commission meeting, Commissioner Johnny Arrington volunteered to assist with negotiations between the City and Jesse Beard in regards to his privately owned property located within the Airport boundary. Comm. Arrington will present an update on the issue.

Staff Recommendation:

Discussion only, no recommendation

Discussion:

Comm. Arrington stated that Mr. Jesse Beard has decided to sell his private property located on the Airport. It was felt that this might be a good opportunity for the City to purchase the property. He said Mr. Mark Cole and himself visited with Jesse in regards to this. After these meetings it was decided the best thing would be to bring this before the Commission so that Jesse could state his position.

Mr. Jesse Beard came before the Commission and stated he had an appraisal done that showed his property at the Airport was worth \$150,000. He said that he has had five offers, but he has been unable to finalize a sale. He stated that he would make a concession, and take \$140,000, as long as the City would sign a 10 year agreement with Advantase Internet to leave their equipment on the property.

Mr. Campbell stated that in the draft "Through the Fence" agreement, there were a couple of areas that could be changed in order to make it more agreeable with anyone interested in the property. However, to stay compliant with the FAA, the property could not be used for commercial purposes.

Chairman Simcoe suggested that potential buyers of the property don't have faith that the City won't take advantage of them. He stated that as a Commission, the only thing they can offer is good will, but to give them the assurance they want, he didn't feel the City could do that.

Mr. Beard also stated that previously, when the Airport fencing was done, the contractor cut off about 35 feet of his property that he would also like to be compensated for.

Mr. Campbell asked that Mr. Beard provide him with a copy of his appraisal and they would take it to Council and see what they say.

Comm. Arrington said that he would like to work with Mr. Campbell on the "Through the Fence" agreement, as a plan "B", to see what changes could be made to make it less restrictive.

There was no further discussion

Airport Advisory Commission Recommendation

No recommendation, information only.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Campbell noted the decline in the number of enplanements. He said that the new Airport Manager, Mike Lewis, would be working with Great Lakes to increase the passenger numbers so that we meet the 10,000 enplanements threshold needed to receive FAA funding. In regards to the fuel report, Mr. Campbell stated that the fuel cost at the Airport remain unacceptably high. The City has done research into the cost of the City providing a self – service fueling system. Proposal for the system will be brought back to the Commission for review.

The Commission was in agreement that it was a good idea for the City to look into self-fueling.

BUSINESS FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

None

BUSINESS FROM THE MEMBERS:

None

BUSINESS FROM THE STAFF:

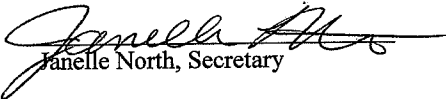
Mr. Campbell informed the Commission that a lounge area in the Terminal annex has been set aside for the pilot group to meet at, per a request made by Mr. Donal Key.

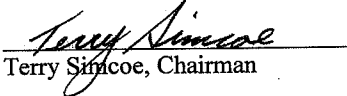
BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the March 11, 2014, Regular Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.


Janelle North, Secretary


Terry Simcoe, Chairman