



TAUNTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING
January 25, 2012

Commissioners: Charlie Menard, Chairman
Maryan Nowak, Vice Chairman
Bob Adams
Carolyn Basler
Fred Terra

Airport Manager: Dan Raposa
Assistant Airport Manager: Joe Lawlor (Absent)
Recording Secretary: Gwendolyn Borden

Others in Attendance: Eric LeGuelaff: Airport Solutions Group
DJ & Michelle Littlefield on behalf of Bay State Skydiving Center
Carroll Slavick: airport abutter
Ron Mahan: Aerial Skyvertising
Deanna King: Atlantic Aviation
Gerry Field: Airport Tenant
Fran Soares: Airport Tenant
Lenny Vintro: Airport Neighbor
Steve Goldin: Airport Tenant
Ted Porada: Airport Ground Services Manager

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Menard.

Eric LeGuelaff of Airport Solutions Group submitted the monthly status report on projects that ASG is working on for the airport and gave a verbal report on the items and asking if there were any questions or comments on the items presented. (See attachment for specifics of ASG's report). Charlie asked if there were any questions or comments from anyone in attendance? Gerry Field asked Eric how the easements are acquired? Eric explained that the neighbors are approached, if they are interested in talking about having their land acquired two appraisals would be conducted to determine the fair market value of the property and then the airport would make an offer based upon those appraisals. There were no further comments or questions and Charlie thanked Eric for his continued efforts on airport projects.

Minutes: December 28, 2011 – Fred: motions to accept as presented. Bob: seconds the motion. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.

Treasurers' Report for January 2012 – Income \$68,813.56, Expenses \$56,494.45 for a Positive Cash Flow of +\$12,319.11 Fred: motions to accept the report subject to audit and authorize the processing of the bills for payment. Maryan: seconds. All in favor, unanimous. So voted.

Airport Managers' Report – Dan reported on the following:

1. **Fuel Survey** – Current fuel price is \$5.50 for credit, checks and house accounts and \$5.33 cash. Our fuel price is still one of the lowest around. We received a fuel delivery yesterday and don't have the price available at this time, but there could be an increase in the vicinity of \$0.20/gallon. The trend of fuel is increasing every few days.
2. **Airside Inspections – Tie Downs, Lights and Fuel Farm** are in good shape, nothing out of the ordinary to report. Dan has been replacing lights when needed and Tie downs are in good shape. Rope is available for anyone with a tie down needing new rope. We plowed twice in the last week.
3. **Bristol County Mosquito Control** – Dan met with Steve Burns on 1/13 and they reviewed airport aerial photos. Steve will coordinate the work to clear growth in the wetlands that will help keep the water flowing which will in turn help airport drainage.
4. **January 7, Tom and Mary Noonan Met with Airport Tenants and Users RE: Parachute Jumping.** Dan reported that he attended this meeting
5. **January 17, Tom and Mary Noonan met with Airport Neighbors RE: Parachute Jumping.** Dan reported that he also attended this meeting.
6. **January 18, Dan met with Atty. Strojny and Mr. Frenette RE: Furmanik Property MOU.**
7. **Fran Soares off Runway** – Dan reported that he is in the process of compiling information on the incident to submit to the City Solicitors office.

Deanna King of Atlantic Aviation asked what is the next step for the parachute jumping business to go forward? Charlie responded that later in this meeting the commission will take a vote to proceed, and based on the activity of that portion of the meeting, if they are approved it would be tentative pending satisfactorily submitting and completing the drop zone review by MassDOT Aeronautics and a safety analysis to be completed by the FAA, which the commission has decided to ask for. So even if the Noonans' get the tentative approval to go forward that allows them to begin the paperwork and submit to MassDOT for the drop zone review and it gives us the opportunity to ask the FAA to do a safety analysis. And only upon successfully achieving both of those would the final approval be given.

Old Business

1. **Furmanik/Airport Property Update** – Charlie stated as Dan had reported that we have met with Atty. Strojny and Mr. Frenette. The FAA has finally given their approval and we are now working through the MOU to make sure that all the criteria are met. We believe it to be in the process and we hope the whole things is completed, at least the transaction of the property, the determination of who is to put the fence up and where and the passage of the deed and recordings of the deeds should take place shortly. Dan reported that the engineer for Mr. Frenette, Paul Patenaude called and said he would be here next week to make those determinations. Charlie noted that based on what Mr. Patenaude comes up with, we have the opportunity to review and should it be acceptable to us, we can get to the next level and put the matter to rest.
2. **Solar Panels Project** – Review of Submitted Information – Charlie reported that at last months' meeting we had a presentation by several companies regarding the possibility of solar panel on the airport. At that meeting we requested that they submit to us copies of letters of agreements, negotiations and binding agreements that they have with either the TMLP and/or the City of Taunton. We were told they were available and would be forthcoming with providing this information to us. To date these documents have not been submitted to us. The only thing we have received is a blank contract that they have with their end users and a letter from the TMLP authorizing a business agent to begin negotiations with Blue Wave. There does not appear to be a contract between them and to the best of our knowledge TMLP

does not have any contracts with any solar companies at this time nor could we find any record of the City of Taunton having agreements with solar companies. So as an update, that is where we are. Maryan has spoken with a representative of the TMLP who spoke directly with Mr. Horrigan, manager of the TMLP and they have assured us there is no contract and there may not be a contract unless the rate for the power they would provide to TMLP is at a favorable rate. Charlie stated for a point of information for anyone in attendance who is an abutter to the airport and they have a parcel of open land, these companies are all over the place, and they are talking to several of our abutters and they give you pie in the sky and great offers, but be very careful of what they offer because they are saying they have agreements with the city when they don't.

New Business –

- 1. Bay State Skydiving Request** – Charlie spoke on the application from Bay State Skydiving who has requested after several meeting with both airport users and neighbors, for tentative approval and notice to proceed. Should this be the decision of the commission, as discussed earlier, it should be contingent upon the successfully submitting and completing both the MassDOT landing zone review and approval and the successful report from the FAA on the Safety Analysis of the operation at Taunton that it can co-exist with the airport usage and our neighborhood environment. Charlie stated that the 2 meetings that he attended, it was interesting to see the number of people who showed up for the meetings, and for the most part it was favorable towards the operation. Gerry Field asks several questions, will the stipulations in the lease be available for viewing prior to the Noonans' signing, what is the expected monetary value of the operation to the airport, and how much square footage will they be leasing? Charlie responded by saying that the square footage has not yet been determined and it will be determined when the Noonans' inform the commission what they are looking for. Also, everything that happens at this airport is available to anyone wanting to see it. Everything is available when it is ready, everything is an open book here and there is nothing that's closed. You can come in at any time and review any lease. The leases here are the same price for everyone regardless of what you do.

Ron Mahan asks that if the commission approves the operation to go forward, he requests that representatives of the Tailwind and Crosswinds hangar associations be allowed to attend the safety analysis conducted by the FAA. Charlie stated the request will be made for the safety analysis, but we will not be a part of it. FAA will send a team down to conduct the study and we will find out the results after completion of the study and he does not agree that when FAA arrives for their study that the airport manager holds them up from their work to contact people that want to be in attendance. Any concerns can be made directly to the FAA by way of telephone, letters or the internet. The commission and the airport manager will be sending pertinent information to the FAA in the application for the analysis and Charlie hopes that the airport users will trust that the commission is looking out for everyone here at the airport.

Ron Mahan talked about safety concerns, pilots without radios and said that Tom Noonan had made the comment that it was the pilots responsibility to look out for the jumpers. Charlie expressed that it is our utmost concern that any and all operations here operate in a safe, efficient and good manner. We all share the same interest and if it doesn't fit, regardless of what value it may have to the airport, if the FAA says it's questionable, it won't happen because we owe it to all airport users.

Deanna King asks what type of information will be put into the request for the safety analysis? Charlie stated that we will identify what we feel is a fair representation of the airport, its' users and our concerns as best we can. Deanna asks if she can submit concerns? Charlie said she could share her concerns with Dan and if they are realistic concerns we will certainly incorporate them into our request. Dan can provide the name of the contact at the FAA if anyone would like to submit concerns. If it helps to identify a problem or issue then it's all the better for the airport.

Deanna King also asked if there had been any discussions with regard to a public viewing area and transportation to the drop zone? Charlie responded that his best understanding is that they're looking to do their business transactions in the terminal building. The viewing area would be just in from the gate on Westcoat Drive where they plan to lease a small area to put up a canopy for shade and to pack chutes and maybe a picnic table for sitting friends of the

jumpers to view under their supervision. The area along Middleboro Avenue was used in the past as a viewing area but it may be a safety issue now because with the fence there is not much area there now as before. We will be looking for help from the police department in this regard.

David Littlefield of East Taunton a jump instructor for the Noonans' addressed the commission and others in attendance and spoke on behalf of the proposed operation and the Noonans' and noted that this tandem jump operation is very safety conscious. David stated that he will be one who will determine when it is time to exit the plane and he looks out for all planes. He doesn't expect for planes to get out of his way, he expects to be out of their way. They use radio contact and if there is a plane pulling a banner, they will wait till the plane is out of the way before they jump. We want to be good neighbors. David continued by explaining safety procedures and how the parachutes of today are more accurate and go where they're wanted to go. With regard to crowds of people forming, generally there are a few friends of the people that are jumping but after the jump they tend to leave. People going by may stop to look but they don't usually wait around an hour to watch the next set of jumpers. This operation is a business and will be conducted as a business, not a party and we are looking forward to working with everyone. Charlie stated that we look forward to the next step, whatever that may be. **Maryan: motions that the request of Bay State Skydiving be given tentative approval contingent upon the successful completion of MassDOT landing zone review and a favorable FAA Safety Analysis. Carolyn: seconds. All in favor, unanimous. So voted.**

Public Input – Fred requested the use of the airport in May 20th for the TAA Spring Cookout. The event will be for airport users and friends and this year we will be charging \$5.00 per person in order to get a head count. Last year people took tickets because it was free, food was purchased and people didn't show. So there was more food than people. To avoid this happening again, we will be selling the tickets this year. Fred will coordinate the event with Dan.

Maryan: motions to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Fred: second. All in favor, unanimous. So voted
Next meeting February 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Leonard F. Rose SRE Building.

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Charles R. Menard, Sr., Commission Chairman Daniel J. Raposa, Airport Manager	FROM:	Bob Mallard
LOCATION:	Taunton, MA	LOCATION:	Woburn, MA
SUBJECT:	Monthly Status Report – Misc. Projects	DATE:	January 25, 2012

This memo describes the current status of miscellaneous engineering and planning projects at the Taunton Municipal Airport as of the date indicated above.

SWPPP / SPCCP / RUNWAY 4-22 THRESHOLD SITING ANALYSIS – FY2011 AIP PROJECT

- Final SWPPP/SPCC in production.
- ASG coordinated with Col-East on submission of tree-top data to FAA GIS website. ASG to finalize RW 4-22 obstruction analysis.
- Continued with management & contract administration of the project including scheduling, DBE issues, processing invoices, processing sub-consultant invoicing and payments, etc.

EA/EIR – FY2012 AIP PROJECT

- ASG coordinated with Epsilon (environmental) and Alpha (survey) to finalize draft scope for Airport, FAA and MassDOT review. Draft delivered for review 1/25/12.

PHASE 1 RW 4-22 EASEMENT/LAND ACQUISITION – FY2012 AIP PROJECT

- Coordinated Draft Scope of Work with project sub-consultants for – appraisals, review appraisals, survey, environmental review, and negotiations;
- Finalized Draft Scope of Work and submitted to Airport, FAA and MassDOT for review;
- Coordinated and secured FAA and MassDOT approval of Scope of Work;
- Initiated preparation of blank fee spreadsheet for use by the Airport's Independent Fee Estimator (IFE)
- Coordinated outside assistance for Airport's legal work on the project.

AIRFIELD SECURITY SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – FY2012 ASMP PROJECT

- On hold – awaiting approval from MassDOT based on funding availability.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- Assisted Airport with inquiry of FAA report regarding recent aircraft accident
- Continued updating the Airport's DBE Plan per new FAA policy, including Small Business Element
- Provided miscellaneous assistance to TAN Airport Manager.
- Attended /participated in monthly Airport Commission meeting.