



TAUNTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT  
COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 30, 2014

Commissioners: Fred Terra, Chairman  
Bob Adams, Vice-Chairman  
William Manganiello (absent)  
Jim Madigan  
Burton Schriber  
Charles Malo  
Jan Boboruzian

Airport Manager: Dan Raposa  
Treasurer: Joe Lawlor  
Recording Secretary: Gwendolyn Borden  
Airport Ground Services: Ted Porada

Others in Attendance: Jim Miklas: Airport Solutions Group  
Airport Tenants/Users: Charlie Pickett, Doug Cooper, Joe Souza, Jerry Field, Mike Dupont, Melinda Paine-Dupont, Rick Anderson, Richard Mileika, Steve Perry, Ron Nation, Ken Gibson, Steve Proffetty, Frank Nowak, Luis Gonzalez, Dick Crowell, Augusto Silva, Don Almeida, Steve Goldin, Eugenio Ribeiro, Fran Soares, Doel Torres, Toby Baird, Alan Budrick, Bill Frasier, Norman Lemaire, Mike Bruzzi, Robert Haselmann, Joe Mortland, Karl Abers, Steve Manchester, Dick Griffith

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commission Chairman Fred Terra

**Airport Engineers Projects Update** – Jim Miklas reported on the status of projects they are working on. (See attached report for specifics)

**Secretary's Report November 26, 2014.** Jim: motions to accept as presented. Jan: seconds the motion. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.

**Treasurers' Report for December 2014** – Joe reported on airport finances reporting **INCOME** of \$21,908.72 and **EXPENSES** of \$16,180.27 for a **Positive Cash Flow** of \$5,728.45. Jan: motions to accept the report subject to audit and authorize the processing of the bills for payment. Jim: seconds the motion. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.

Joe reported on **account balances in the General Ledger** 25 Account of \$95,087.83 and the **Grants Ledger** 22 Account of \$61,700.68.

**Airport Managers Report** – Dan reported on the following:

1. **Fuel Survey** – Our current fuel prices are as follows: \$5.87/gallon for cash sales, and \$6.05/gallon for credit card, checks and house accounts. The price of fuel is dropping quite rapidly and we have about 2,000 gallons in the ground at the present time. We should decide whether we want to purchase a partial load at the current price or sell more of what we have in the ground and get a larger load as the price may drop more the longer we wait. Dan feels we should hold off for a couple of weeks and run the tank down a bit and purchase a regular load. After discussions, it was agreed to wait a couple of weeks before ordering fuel.
2. **Airside Inspections** – Normal amount of lights going out and replaced as needed. When we get rain storms, we seem to have more bulbs to replace. We had an end light down the other day, and that has been repaired. Otherwise we are in good shape. **Rope** is available for tie downs if anyone is in need of rope.
3. Taunton Fire Department was here to test the **YELP system** on 12/1. The system is working fine.
4. On 12/10/2014 Dan met with Chris Willenborg and Drew Mihaley who visited and talked about **deer eradication**. Dan believes they have been getting comments from airport users. We recently had a deer strike which is the only strike that's been reported by an aircraft in about 40 years that Dan can recall or has a record of. We have been diligent on this issue and have increased the people who we have allowed to hunt on airport property solely for the purpose of decreasing the amount of deer. Dan thinks that the deer have been displaced because of the construction of Taxiway B. We have been conducting surveillance of the deer and have not had any spottings in the last 2 to 3 weeks. However the concern was that we may want to take advantage of the MassDOT program on eradication. Discussions continued and many people agreed that the deer will just come back. Fred would like to re-visit the issue next month and asks Karl Abers to keep in contact with the other hunters and let Dan know when they see deer. Karl stated that he has not seen a single deer in the last month or so. Ron Nation stated that he has seen 4 about 3 weeks ago. Norm Lemaire stated they come and go and you can get rid of all of them one day and they're back the next and he has seen them behind his hangar go clear over the fence. Karl Abers asks that anyone who spots deer to inform Dan. Jan asked that they try to be specific with time of day, location and how many deer are spotted. This information will be helpful if we need to go with the eradication program. Fred noted that we will re-visit the issue next month. Dan stated that the other issues that Drew and Chris talked about were the AOA violations and the Gates being closed 24/7. They re-affirmed to us that what we are doing on these issues is what is required.
5. 12/13/2014 Dan met with the Jet A committee. Report to follow later in meeting.
6. 12/18/2014 Dan met with Capt. Bastis of the Fire Department re: Jet A.
7. 12/19/2014 Dan met with Jim Miklas and Rick Lasdin of ASG re: the AMPU. We spent a couple of hours trying to get the update organized.
8. 12/20/2014 Dan met with the Jet A committee again.
9. **The Airport Facilities Directory** has been updated to include the notification of deer on the airport. Dan thanked Joe Lawlor for taking the lead on doing this, and this information will be in the next publication and the information is available if you call in for it.

**Update on Jet A** – Bob reported that 3 meetings have been held, and the committee has visited Marshfield and Plymouth airports. Jan, Burton, Bob, Ken Gibson and Ron Nation flew out to check out the facilities and they do not have truck to truck fills, they do truck to tanks in the ground. There will be some initial costs to set this up to make it happen but we should be able to recoup these expenses over time.

Bob asked that before he talks about the new Master Plan he would like to say something about what is left of the old one and noted that basically we have about \$12,000,000.00 invested in the airport since the commission took over the day to day operations of the airport around 1995. There were about 30 items to address and about 97% of the items have been completed. In the last 10 years we've actually made hangar space for 75 new aircraft in various new hangars on the airport. The next Master Plan is pretty important as far as picking out what we want to do here for the future of the airport.

### **Old Business**

1. **ADA Compliance Update** – Dan has no update.
2. **FAA Hangar Inspections** – Fred reported that when Chris and Drew from MassDOT were here they said that the FAA inspection of all the hangars is coming in January. They will be going by the rules in place now even though there are a lot of proposed new rules which will not be enacted for the next 4 or 5 years. So they will be enforcing and rules that are on the books at present.
3. **Review/Set Rates for 2015** – Joe presented copies of the 2014 fee structure and the proposed 2015 structure. Joe explained that at the end of FY 2013 we were in the red by -\$21,998.00 and rates were increased. At the end of FY 2014 we're +\$23,745.00. Given that amount of money on the recommendations here, he doesn't see any need to increase our day to day or monthly fees. We're doing okay, we're meeting the airports' needs and the only increase that he would suggest is on building lease and property lease, because that is not today money, that's tomorrow money: when a new lease is established or existing lease is renewed. The increase on the property lease of \$0.005 amounts to roughly 1% and building lease increase of \$0.10/s.f. represents less than 1%. If we keep tracking the way we are now, we may not have to increase fees next year.

Fred stated that we have a petition before us from the users of the airport with concerns on the fee structure and proposed increases. Fred informed everyone in attendance that we, as a commission don't set rates arbitrarily, and we're very concerned about the rates because most of us on the commission have a vested interest in the airport too. Whatever rates we set, they concern and affect us too. Each month a financial report is prepared of what money comes in and goes out of this airport and this information is available to anyone who asks for it. Fred asks for motions on the proposed fee structure and that we'll entertain each item separately.

FEE STRUCTURE RATES – continued

Jan informed the commission that he received a call from Commissioner Manganiello and asked that he pass along Bill's request that we not vote on the rates this evening. Charlie stated that he also received the same request from Bill.

*Aircraft Tie-Down Lease* – **Jan: motions to retain the current rate of \$85.00/month and \$96.00/month for electrified TD. Jim: seconds. Discussion: none. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.**

*Building Lease* – **Jan: motions to increase the square footage rate to \$8.85/s.f. at the renewal of leases and at the creation of new tenant leases. Jim: seconds. Discussion: none. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.**

*Property Lease (All Ground Leases)* – **Jan: motions to increase the square footage rate by ½ cent to \$0.205/s.f. Jim: seconds. All in favor: Jan, Jim, Bob, Burton. Discussion:** Charlie said he'd like to motion that we table until the next meeting so that Bill can be here to vote. Burton asks why we have to wait until the next meeting for one person when we have enough people here to do this. Charlie responded, to afford him the courtesy as would be afforded to any other commissioner. Charlie asked what the urgency was. Fred responded that it's the first of the year and last year Burton missed voting on the rates but didn't request that we put the vote off for him. **Opposed: Charlie. Motion carries: so voted.**

*Business Registration Fee* – **Jan: motions to retain the current rate of \$97.00/month. Jim: seconds. Discussion: none. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.**

*Airport Identification Card* – **Jim: motions to retain the current rate of \$35.00/card. Jan: seconds. Discussion: none. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.**

*Self-Fueler – Fuel Flowage Fee* – **Jan: motions to retain the current rate of \$0.30/gallon. Jim: seconds. Discussion: none. All in favor: unanimous. So voted.**

**New Business**

1. **Pilgrim Aviation** – Dan reported that Pilgrim Aviation has decided not to renew their lease. Mr. Rosen said it didn't work out as anticipated and they didn't get the growth they expected. Dan stated that they were a good tenant, a respected tenant, they paid their bills, and they are leaving in good standing.

## Public Input

Before we have public input, Fred wishes to say that there have been lies being spread here at the airport and that he wants to put to bed, that he and Bob want to shut down the dirt runway so they can build hangars. Fred stated for the record that when and if 4/22 were to close he and Bob will not be building hangars on the dirt runway. This is a public meeting, it is part of the record, so the lie can stop.

Fred reminded everyone that public input will be kept civil, there will be no clapping or cheering or shouting, if there is, the meeting is over.

Robert Haselmann addressed the commission, stated he was chief flight instructor for King Aviation for 14 years, pilot/examiner for 27 years and has studied the advisory circular for the construction of airports in extreme detail. Runway 4/22 he believes is a safety asset to this airport. He is 81 and he could have been dead at 37. He was taking off on runway 30 on a hot summer day in a Piper Colt and the engine quit on him at the end of the runway, got the nose down, made a hard right turn and landed on runway 4, and didn't even use half of the runway. If it wasn't there the only place would have been to go into the trees. It is a safety asset for use as a crosswind runway and has been used as such when he was an instructor here. Also he was airport manager here for about 3 years in the late 70's, early 80's. He left to fly for the Army. Robert continued with information on slope standards and information on airports he has visited or looked into. So, the idea of us losing our funding because we have a 12:1 slope to these runways, should not be a real consideration, because the 26 other airports he's talking about, 20 of them don't meet the standards now. He thinks we can meet the standards of 15:1 approach slope by displacing the threshold probably around 400'. Last summer he soloed two student pilots off that runway with no problems.

Steve Profetty asks, now the they are getting closer to having the trees removed from the end of 4/22, can they get a letter from the city giving them permission to be in this area of the airport? Fred responded that Steve needs to give us in writing, what they're proposing to do and Fred will present it to the Law Department.

Steve Profetty, Steve Goldin and Richard Mileka asked several questions of Jim Miklas with regard to identifying the trees at the end of runway 4/22 and the coordinates needed to identify them. Jim Miklas stated that at the next PAC meeting we'll be discussing alternatives on how to deal with the runway. We need to identify what the alternatives are and have a recommended alternative that comes out of the process that the commission wants to vote on as being the preferred alternative moving forward. Once we have that we can finalize documentation to make sure it complies with the FAA. We don't want to have anyone cutting trees then we find out that the FAA decided not to endorse it. By the end of January we should have the alternatives presented to the commission. Jim can provide the coordinates to the commission and it will be up to the commission to give this information to the group if it so chooses. But the coordinates could change based upon where the FAA determines the runway end location, but it also possible it could remain as is.

Discussions continued with regards to the obstructing trees, standards for slopes, approach clearances etc. After discussions, Fred said that when they get the coordinates from ASG after the PAC meeting, they will provide them to the group that wants to cut the trees. Charlie suggests getting someone from the FAA out here to look at the trees to see what they could suggest or do for us. Jim Miklas will see what he can do to get someone out here before the next PAC meeting.

**Jan: motions to adjourn at 8:30. Jim: seconds. All in favor, unanimous. So voted.**

Next meeting January 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Leonard F. Rose SRE Building.

**Individuals with disabilities, who require assistance or special arrangements to attend, please contact the Airport Manager at 508-821-2973. We request that you provide a 48 hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.**

