

**AMENDED MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY\***

**March 21, 2013  
5:30 P.M.**

- IN ATTENDANCE:** **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chairman – Ron Fairfax, Vice-Chairman – Susan McBryant, Board – Lawrence Schoen, Angenie McCleary, Jacob Greenberg, Conference – Don Keirn  
**FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT STAFF:** Airport Manager – Rick Baird, Emergency/Operations Chief – Peter Kramer; Contracts/Finance Administrator – Lisa Emerick, Administrative Assistant/IT Systems Maintenance Coordinator - April Dieter,  
**AIRPORT LEGAL COUNSEL:** Lubovski, Wygle, Fallowfield & Ritzau – Barry Lubovski;  
**AIRPORT TENANTS/PUBLIC:** Atlantic Aviation – Mike Rasch; BCPA – Jim Perkins; ATCT – George White  
**PRESS:** Idaho Mountain Express – Kate Wutz
- CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 2:51 p.m. by Chairman Fairfax.
- I. APPROVE AGENDA** The agenda was approved as presented.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comment was made.
- III. NEW BUSINESS**
- A. Likelihood of immediate financial loss of FAA funding for the operation of the Air Traffic Control Tower**  
Airport Manager Baird briefed the Board on the situation regarding the cessation of FAA funding for the Airport's Air Traffic Control Tower and presented the Board with options to consider in moving forward (Minutes Attachment #1).
- The Board clarified technical aspects of Airport Manager Baird's brief including insurance inflation, existing tower employees, and whether or not litigation would affect other projects currently in development between the Airport and the FAA.
- The Board discussed the options suggested by Airport Manager Baird and agreed to pursue investigation of funding the tower independently on a month-to-month basis, including where those funds would come from. The Board also agreed and to not to pursue legal litigation against the FAA at this time.
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- Atlantic Aviation General Manager, Mike Rasch commented that the Airport needs a tower to operate efficiently and encouraged the Board to make a decision as quickly as possible as it takes time to negotiate and transfer contracts with tower personnel.
- Blaine County Pilots Association representative, Jim Perkins strongly recommended that the Board pursue investigate investigation of funding the tower as soon as possible.
- V. ADJOURNMENT**
- The March 21, 2013 Special Meeting of the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

  
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Lawrence Schoen, Secretary

\* *Additional resources/materials that should be reviewed with these meeting minutes include but are not limited to the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Board Packet briefing, the PowerPoint presentation prepared for this meeting and any referenced attachments.*

Despite the valiant efforts of many the "save the contract towers" amendment offered by Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas and cosponsored by 26 Senators to include Senator Crapo and Senator Risch did not make it as part of the "continuing resolution" adopted by the Senate yesterday. With the path for a legislative "fix" to the DOT/FAA action to cease funding 173 towers now completely blocked, FMAA's last chance for removal from the list is the appeal that was submitted on March 10. As you know the FAA has announced that it will issue its final decision on March 22, 2013. No information exist that would indicate the April 7 closure deadline will change.

I am told by industry experts - expect few of the towers on the original closure list to be removed from the final list. Based on that information, Airport Staff was attempting to establish a Special Meeting of the Board on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Spring Break made the likelihood of establishing a Special Meeting on that date unlikely so the next best option was to attempt the Special Meeting today.

Airport Staff believes that four options are available to the Board.

Option 1 – Do nothing and let the tower close when funding cessation takes place.

Option 2 – Investigate funding the Tower on a monthly basis until Congress has an opportunity to reinstate the program which some say could come in May or June. A possible action on the Board's part might be to Authorize Staff to investigate funding the Tower on a monthly basis.

Option 3 – As a result of the pending action by DOT/FAA, there are a number of airports considering legal action against the FAA. While I need to respect each airport's confidentiality, I am aware that several airports have or will authorize litigation. FMAA might consider legal action or being a part of legal action. If the Airport is notified tomorrow that the FAA will cease funding Hailey Tower a letter asking that the FAA stay their decision must be forwarded to the FAA at the latest by Monday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Filing a legal action in Federal Court would follow no later than Wednesday or Thursday. If the Board would like to pursue Legal Action a motion to do so is a necessary action today. A possible motion might be – Authorize Staff to pursue Legal Action based on FAA action on Friday March 22.

Option 4 – A dual option pursuing option 2 and 3 at the same time is also available to the Board.