

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY***

**April 9, 2013
5:30 P.M.**

IN ATTENDANCE: **BOARD MEMBERS:** Chairman – Ron Fairfax, Vice-Chairman – Susan McBryant, Board – Lawrence Schoen, Angenie McCleary, Ron Fairfax, Fritz Haemmerle, Don Keirn
FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL AIRPORT STAFF: Airport Manager – Rick Baird, Emergency/Operations Chief – Peter Kramer, ASC/Special Projects Coordinator/Executive Assistant – Steve Guthrie, Administrative Assistant/Alternate Airport Security Coordinator – Roberta Christensen, Administrative Assistant/IT Systems Maintenance Coordinator - April Dieter, Administrative Assistant – Cecilia Vega
AIRPORT LEGAL COUNSEL: Luboviski, Wygle, Fallowfield & Ritzau – Barry Luboviski;
CONSULTANTS: T-O Engineers – Dave Mitchell, Todd Combs, Chris Pomeroy;
ANTICIPATE – Candice Pate
AIRPORT TENANTS/PUBLIC: ATCT – George White; Atlantic Aviation – Mike Rasch; Hertz – Andy Miles; BCPA – Jim Perkins; Donna Serrano, Evan Stelma, Charles Matthiesen, SVRB - Bob Crosby; FSVA - Dick Fenton; Ed Jenkins; A-1 Taxi – Jim Evanhoe; Baird Gourlay, NSGPS - Gordon Williams; Horizon/Alaska Airlines – Cheryl McKnight; Marketron – Walt Denelcas; Tom Ziegler, Sun Valley Mayor – Dewayne Briscoe; Sustain Blaine – Harry Griffith; Julie Lawson, Glass Cockpit Aviation – John Strauss; Enterprise – Justin Maddux; Jay Coleman
PRESS: KMVT – Jay Michaels; KECH 95 Dayle Ohiau

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Fairfax.

I. APPROVE AGENDA The agenda was approved as presented

II. PUBLIC COMMENT Jay Coleman commented that a new airport will create a more outgoing attitude within the community however it is hard to sincerely believe that the FAA would reconsider sites that were already rejected in the past. He commented that he does not understand why the Board is reconsidering sites that present a real possibility of human conflict with the established residences and lifestyles of Hailey and Bellevue.

Ed Jenkins commented that the Board needs to take into consideration the safety of individuals residing in Hailey and Bellevue and find a way to move the Airport to a new location.

**III. APPROVE FMAA
MEETING MINUTES**

A. March 12, 2013 Regular Meeting (See Brief)

The March 12, 2013 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were approved with the following changes:

III. AIRPORT STAFF BRIEF

A. Employee of the Quarter (See Brief)

Ms. Dieter thanked the Board and Airport Staff for their continuous support and encouragement of her as the Administrative Assistant/IT Systems Maintenance Coordinator for the Airport and thanked them both for allowing her to be a part of the FMA team.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Airport Solutions

2. Blaine County Report

Board Member Schoen reported that the County is in the process of

drafting a letter to Idaho's Congressional representatives **requesting their assistance** as well as a draft joint memorial **for the Idaho legislature to consider** in regarding the support of keeping the Airport Tower funded which will be brought before the Idaho Legislature as well as Congressional representatives to be passed jointly by the House and Senate **by the FAA.**

7. Existing Site

a. Site Selection

Board Member Haemmerle answered that the City understands that the project formulation of Alternative 6 needs to be completed first and the estimate of completing site selection by October 1 is more of a placeholder to begin discussion of site selection after completion of the project formulation. He suggested that if the project formulation is not completed within the estimated six months, the Board should discuss a new date for **initiation** ~~completion~~ of the site selection study.

b. EIS Termination

Board Member McBryant asked Attorney Lubovski to brief the Board on his **recommendation** ~~research findings~~ regarding voting privileges for EIS termination.

Board Member Haemmerle commented that City views the EIS as the best opportunity for relocating the Airport, however the City understands that the Board must now move forward with site selection and existing site improvement due to the FAA's decision to not **to** move forward with the EIS, as well as their suggestion that they will not allow the Board to move forward with existing site improvement until the EIS is terminated.

MOTION:

Made by Board Member McCleary to approved the March 12, 2013 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. Seconded by Board Member Schoen.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A. March 21, 2013 Special Meeting (See Brief)

The March 21, 2013 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were approved with the following changes:

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Likelihood of Immediate financial loss of FAA funding for the operation of the Air Traffic Control Tower

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

Blaine County Pilots Association representative, Jim Perkins strongly recommended that the Board pursue **investigate** ~~investigation~~ of funding the tower as soon as possible.

MOTION:

Made by Board Member McCleary to approved the

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

A. March 27, 2013 Special Meeting (See Brief)

The March 27, 2013 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were approved with the following changes:

IN ATTENDANCE: BOARD MEMBERS: Vice-Chairman – Susan McBryant, Board Member Keirn; Via Conference – Board Member Haemmerle, Chairman Fairfax, Board Member Greenberg, Board Member Schoen

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION – I.C. §67-2345 (1)(f)

MOTION: ~~Made by Haemmerle to end Executive Session. Seconded by Board Member Keirn.~~

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: *Made by Board Member McCleary to approved the March 27, 2013 Friedman Memorial Airport Authority Special Meeting Minutes as amended. Seconded by Board Member Schoen.*

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. REPORTS

A. Chairman Report

Chairman Fairfax reported that within a year construction for runway safety projects, which may improve reliability and air service, will begin at the Airport and despite the current issues regarding the tower, the Board is continuing to maintain the mantra of relentless forward progress.

B. Blaine County Report

Board Member Schoen reported that the Board of Blaine County Commissioners approved a letter to be sent to the Idaho Legislature, Governor Otter and State representatives requesting their support of anticipated legislation which could be a near medium or permanent fix to the federal contract tower program issue that the Airport now faces.

C. City of Hailey Report

Board Member Haemmerle reported that the City of Hailey discussed the Airport lawsuit against the FAA and await the outcome of the lawsuit.

D. Airport Manager Report

Airport Manager Baird reported that U.S. Senators Jerry Moran of Kansas and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut have introduced bipartisan legislation which will prohibit the closure of towers in order to comply with sequestration cuts. The legislation has been co-signed by nine Republican Senators and nine Democratic Senators, as of today.

E. Communications Director Report

Communications Director Candice Pate reported that one individual attended the March Coffee Talk in Hailey and no one signed up for the March Airport Tour. She

announced that the next Coffee Talk is scheduled for April 23rd and the Airport Tour will be held on the 24th.

Communications Director Pate also reported that she is continuing to coordinate meetings with large businesses and employers around the Wood River Valley and has scheduled a meeting with Power Engineers on April 22nd. She also reported that the Airport Solutions email blast subscriptions have increased this month most likely due to the community's interest in the potential tower closure.

V. AIRPORT STAFF BRIEF

- A. Noise Complaints (See Brief)**
- B. Parking Lot Update (See Brief)**
- C. Profit & Loss, ATCT Traffic Operations Count and Enplanement Data (See Brief)**
- D. Review Correspondence (See Brief)**
- E. Fly Sun Valley Alliance Update (See Brief)**
- F. Airport Weather Interruptions (See Brief)**
- G. Operations Brief (See Brief)**

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Airport Solutions

1. Existing Site

a. Plan to Meet 2015 Congressional Safety Area Requirement (See Brief)

Engineer Mitchell briefed the Board on the current status of the RSA Improvements Formulation Project and the Modifications of Standards process.

The Board discussed Engineer Mitchell's presentation pertaining to the FAA's feedback on the Modifications of Standards document including the FAA's restrictions to runway operations to be included in the document before approval is granted.

Chairman Fairfax commented that the operational restrictions the FAA is proposing are greater than the restrictions currently in place and it does not seem as though the FAA conducted an environmental or approach evaluation of the Airport.

Engineer Mitchell commented that the regional FAA offices understand the Airport's limitations and history and Airport Staff is now trying to educate FAA headquarters on the Airport's unique situation.

Board Member Greenberg asked how much the Modifications of Standards is dependent on tower operations if the FAA's recommended restrictions are put in place and how would the runways be sterilized without a tower.

Airport Manager Baird answered that there are ways to provide a sterile taxiway without a tower, however, in order to do so Airport operations would be slowed down to an unacceptable level.

Board Member Schoen commented that the FAA's response is surprising as

the Board understood earlier in the process that the FAA indicated the proposed Modifications of Standards for Alternative 6 would be acceptable. He commented that this could potentially be a serious issue.

Airport Manager Baird commented that Staff will continue to work with the FAA on this issue and will be meeting with the FAA in Helena on April 16 to discuss in depth the Modifications of Standards document and RSA Project Formulation process.

b. Instrument Procedures Feasibility Study (See Brief)

T-O Engineer Chris Pomeroy updated the Board on the current status of the Instrument Procedures Feasibility Study.

The Board discussed technical aspects of Engineer Pomeroy's presentation including the use of the different approaches currently available at the Airport and the need for statistical information showing the benefit of pursuing different instrument procedures.

c. Retain/Improve/Develop Air Service

1. Fly Sun Valley Alliance Report (FSVA)

FSVA representative, Dick Fenton, reported that beginning June 1 SkyWest Airlines will be increasing daily flights to and from Sun Valley and Alaska Airlines will be extending their summer flights for an additional week in September.

2. Airport Relocation

a. EIS Termination (See Brief)

B. Hailey Tower Closure

Airport Manager Baird asked the Board to consider whether Staff should begin preparing to fund tower operations and accept the FAA's offer to extend participation in the Federal Contract Tower Program for an additional 30 days beyond June 15, whether Staff should begin preparing to transition to a Non-Federal Contract Tower through the busy summer months or whether Staff should begin preparing for a non-towered airport operation beginning June 15.

The Board discussed Airport Manager Baird's requests and after discussing the financial obligations and effects funding the tower would have on the Airport budget, the Board agreed to temporarily fund the tower for an additional 30 days after June 15.

MOTION:

Made by Board Member Haemmerle to approve the funding the Friedman Memorial Airport Air Traffic Control Tower for an additional 30 days after June 15 unless a stay is granted during litigation. Seconded by Board Member Keirn.

WITHDRAWN

Board Member McBryant commented that she is distressed that representatives from Sun Valley Co., Allen event organizers, NetJets representatives, Ketchum and Sun Valley representatives, and representatives from major businesses in the Wood River Valley are not present to support the Board's attempt to keep the tower open.

Board Member Schoen commented that Airport Manager is looking for direction on how to proceed so a motion for spending is not needed at this time.

Board Member Greenberg commented that the Board of Blaine County Commissioners make a lot of decisions without stakeholders present, but they still represent the citizens of the County that will be benefiting from those decisions. He commented that he fully supports funding the tower for an additional 30 days as the entire Wood River Valley would be affected economically.

Board Member Greenberg suggested that the Board include the feasibility of funding the tower on a long-term basis in the RSA project formulation.

The Board directed Staff to begin preparations for accepting the FAA's offer to extend participation in the Federal Contract Tower Program for an additional 30 days beyond June 15 and begin preparations to transition to a Non-Federal Contract Tower if other remedies currently being sought are unsuccessful.

C. Auto Rental Concession Lease (See Brief)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Maximum Takeoff Weight (See Brief)

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sustain Blaine Executive Director, Harry Griffith, suggested that it would be helpful to see a forecast that estimated the possible economic impact of a significant decrease in enplanements if the tower were shut down and offered to help Staff develop such a forecast.

Atlantic Aviation General Manager, Mike Rasch, commented that several members of the general aviation community are expressing concern regarding the possible tower closures and he has responded to them that it is his belief that the Board will fund the tower as the Board understands the value of the tower to this community.

Glass Cockpit Aviation owner, John Strauss, commented that the Board has the complete support of the aviation community regarding maintaining an operational tower.

Marketron CEO, Walt Denelcas, commented that the Airport and tower are extremely important to the business community and Marketron supports the Board's efforts to maintain an operational tower. He commented that he has offered to Airport Manager Baird, the willingness to champion a fundraising event within the business community to raise money for temporarily funding the tower until a solution is found.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The April 9, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.



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.