

Minutes of the
 GILLESPIE COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD
 Monday, Sept 20, 2021
 @ County AgriLife Building

MEMBERS PRESENT:	STAFF PRESENT:	GUESTS PRESENT:
Mike Roberts	Tony Lombardi, Manager	Ethan Crane
David Smith	Bobby Watson, City	Ian Waghorn
Tim Lehmborg	Dennis Neffendorf, County	Gwen Fullbrook
Greg Snelgrove		James Mickel
Judie Mooney, EAA Rep		
Steve Allen		
Keith Keller		
Absent		

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by the Chairman, Mike Roberts

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the regular Aug 16, 2021, meeting were approved.

AIRPORT MANAGER’S REPORT

- Upcoming Events/Court Actions – The AM reviewed the upcoming events for the airport and the recent commissioners court actions.
 - Event Update
 - Meyers Aircraft Owners Association Reunion, 22-26 Sept
 - ~12 aircraft
 - EAA’s Airport Day, 2 Oct (10am-2pm)
 - Santa’s Fly-in, 21 Dec (1-3pm)
 - Aviation Career Day, 12 Apr 2022
 - Court Action – On 08/23, the Court approved the acceptance of the grant agreement with TXDOT for Airport CRRSAA, and appointed Keith Keller to the AAB. On 09/13, the Court approved the FY22 RAMP agreement, the AWOS service payment, the advertising of the grounds keeper position, and the EAA “Airport Day” event.
 - Following this review, Greg Snelgrove expressed his concerns to the rest of the board about the new airport position’s additional responsibilities (i.e. maintaining the grounds at the County AgriLife building). He stated that it is in violation of the “grant assurance” #25. He claimed, in accordance with #25, airport funds can only be used for the airport, and Greg believes mowing of the County AgriLife property is not the airport’s responsibilities...It is the leaseholder’s responsibility, and thus it is using airport funds incorrectly.

- The Airport Manager disputed Snelgrove’s interpretation and took the position that he fully understands the requirement of GA #25, he declined the copy of that GA that Snelgrove offered, and concluded with the view that the Budget Plan funding of the position is not in violation.
 - Snelgrove rejoined with a motion to send a letter by Resolution of the Airport Board to our Commissioners Court that the Budget Plan may be a violation of GA #25. The motion was seconded by member Smith and approved by the full Board.
- T-hangars occupancy update. The AM stated that we are 100% full...waiting list is at 30.
 - Airport Status – the AM notified the board that everything is in the “green”.

	Lights (PAPIs, Beacon, Rwy Edge, Taxiway, Signs)
	Communication (CTAF, GCO, AWOS)
	Weather Station
	Facilities -Security Cameras installed
	Miscellaneous (Construction, Closures, etc)

- CPI released. The AM reviewed the recently released CPI (5.3%). He mentioned that he has notified all lease holders. The change is effective Oct 1st. The AM also mentioned that the T-Hangar rent will increase in January to \$240 (current rent is \$225). Finally, the AM reviewed the effects of the CPI release on the tier ground lease rate:
 - Tier 1 - \$.28 (\$.27)
 - Tier 2 - \$.22 (\$.21)
 - Tier 3 - \$.20 (\$.19)

OPEN FLOOR

- Crosswind Update –Gwen introduced their new fulltime CFI (James Mickel). She also reviewed her flight school activity with the board (19 flying students). Final, she briefly mentioned that they plan to support Vet flight around Veteran’s Day.
- Tac Aero – Ian Waghorn presented the board with TAC Aero’s new business plan.for their “Tailwheel Academy”. Ian mentioned that TAC Aero will start focusing more of their assets to support existing customers. In doing so, Ian and Tess Waghorn will move back to Washington State to run the expedition business. Kris Finkbeiner will remain at T82 to continue training until their lease expires (next spring). As for the A&P shop, Tac Aero plans to continue operating it as is, except with a new manager. Ian Waghorn concluded by citing issues with Gillespie County Airport Management and the lack of a grass landing area as the factors in Tac Aero's decision to relocate their business.

NEW BUSINESS

- Review/recommend for approval:
 - Crack seal Quote for North and Terminal Apron (a RAMP Project) – The AM reviewed the quote for the crack seal project with the board. It was for \$37,655.00. Since the Pavement Rehab project was moved to FY24. The AM was concerned about the pavement cracks in the terminal and north ramp. The board agreed, and unanimously recommended approval.



- PAPI LED conversion Quote (a RAMP Project). The AM reviewed the PAPI conversion project with the board. This was the board's number project for the last 2 years. The project will replace all 4 PAPI boxes with LED boxes on their existing foundations. The quote from F&W electric is for \$35,640.00. The board agreed, and unanimously recommended approval.



- Water line quote/Fire Hydrant Project – The AM reviewed the previously approved water line /fire hydrant project with the board. The project was approved by Comm Court on Oct 12, 2020 but was delayed to CARES Act funding issues. Now that the funding issue has been resolved, the project needs to go be the Court to get approved again. The quote is for \$49,630.00. The board agreed, and unanimously recommended approval.



- Entrance Road Concerns – The AM discussed some concerns about the entrance road to the airport. He has received some complaints from a leaseholder about people driving on the dirt around the static display aircraft and people cutting the corner going north and south on airport road. Several ideas were discussed, the board recommended that a solution is needed, and supported the AM to come up with options.
- Eclipse Planning Team Discussion. Since the local community has started planning for the eclipse in 2024, the AM asked for support to form a planning group for the airport. The AM recommended the following members (if they agree)
 - Tony Lombardi - Airport Manager/County Rep
 - Ethan Crane – FBO
 - Courtney Walker – Hotel
 - Judie Mooney – EAA/AAB
 - Steve Allen – EAA/ABB
- GA Funding Discussion. Greg Snelgrove led a discussion with the board about GA funding. (See the attachment to review the discussion)

OLD BUSINESS.

- CIP updates:
 - Phase II update. The AM summarized the Final Design Review meeting with TXDOT and Garver with the board. The AM mentioned that the design was almost finalized. There were only a few minor changes that were requested. The AM also mentioned that estimated cost is still high...The estimated cost for the base project is ~\$2.86 M and the draft modified TXDOT budget is ~\$2.999M. The project goes before the TXDOT commission on Aug 31st. If approved, we will start the process to select a contractor.
 - Planning Study Update. The AM reviewed Garver’s update notes with the board:
 - Stakeholder Meetings: The project team has completed all stakeholder meetings. This included meeting with members of the county commission on September 16th.
 - Inventory Documentation: The collection of data for the inventory report is complete with the exception of telecommunications utility data. Garver completed a visual inspection (where possible) of marked underground telecommunication utilities on 9/16/21. Garver is working to obtain utility location information from Spectrum. Rough line locations have been provided by Frontier.

- Forecasting: Baseline forecast models (e.g. based aircraft and operations) were reviewed with TxDOT Aviation on 9/17/21. Garver is going to pull historical aircraft activity data to validate existing operations levels.
 - Greg Snelgrove expressed his concerns with getting an accurate count of operations at the airport. The AM reviewed the number that Garver plans to use. Garver used a year worth of Foreflight data (provided by the FBO) and used the FAA tools to account for aircraft not using ADS-B, and came up with ~59 ops per day (21,581 annually).
- Pavement Weight Bearing Capacity: Pavement weight bearing capacity testing is complete. Expect preliminary results of the analysis within two weeks.
- Mr. Smith added one item. Mr. Smith reviewed the SSBT plan for their expansion project in the business park. Representatives from SSBT will officially present it at next month's meeting.

REPORTS

EAA report – Mrs. Mooney had nothing to report.

David Smith reviewed the fuel sales for last month, and Tim Lehmborg reviewed the sale tax reports for the City and County.

ADJOURNMENT (2:54pm) our next meeting is Oct 18th.

Note: all minutes are available on the airport website (<http://www.gillespiecounty.org/page/airport%20-%20AAB%20Minutes>)

Attachment

General Aviation Airport Funding in Texas

An informal group lead by Dave Fulton, retired Director of TxDOT Aviation Division, has begun work towards the goal of achieving dedicated state funding for general aviation airports. State funding for general aviation airports has been flat for the past 23 years at about \$15 million per year. During this period airport construction buying power decreased by more than 50 %. Needed projects are being postponed due to lack of available funding. Airports in need of a fresh asphalt overlay of primary surfaces must, many times, settle instead for a seal coat. Dedicated funding in an amount sufficient to ensure preservation of investments already made, and to provide for construction to meet future needs is desperately needed.

There are early indications that the legislature could favorably consider some form of dedicated funding for general aviation airports. A system that dedicates fees and taxes generated by general aviation activity to an aviation fund seems to hold promise. This system would essentially mirror the Texas Parks and Wildlife funding system which dedicates sales taxes and fees from outdoor recreation activity to a fund for operation of that department. This plan is preferred because it provides for aviation activity to pay for aviation construction without the imposition of new taxes. Furthermore, this recommended system would be resistant to inflationary trends.

So, how do we get there? The state house and senate must write and pass legislation that sets up the funding system and the Governor must sign the bill. Because this will be in the form of a constitutional amendment, it must be submitted to the people of Texas for their approval. This is a daunting task, but doable and absolutely worth the effort.

The plan is to have all the preliminary work done and the legislation written and ready for presentation to the legislature when it convenes in January 2023. That is the easy part. The difficult part is to educate and motivate the people of Texas to support this initiative. To do this we must energize the general aviation community and secure the involvement and support of local governments, civic organizations, professional organizations, and our elected state officials.

The time to start talking about this is now! Share this with friends and coworkers. Visit your local airport and ask how you can help.

More will follow as this effort matures.

Attachment
Letter to Commissioners Court Re Budget Plan for Airport Grounds Keeper
By Resolution of the Airport Advisory Board of Sept 20, 2021

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The Airport Manager disputed Snelgrove's interpretation, and took the position that he fully understood the requirements of Grant Assurance #25 and declined the copy of GA #25 which Snelgrove offered, and closed with the view that the funding of the grounds keeper position as an airport expense was not a violation.

Snelgrove rejoined with a motion to send a letter to Commissioners Court stating that the budget plan to fund the grounds keeper position may be a violation of GA #25. It was seconded by Mr. Smith and approved by all board members.