

WHITE PINE COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Date: Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Ely Jet Center

Present: Tim Parish, Richard Barber, Lloyd Phillips and Airport Manager Lance Gale

Also Present: Geri Wopschall, Dan Netcher and Lori Romero, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Tim Parish called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

1.*DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: MINUTES-CORRECTION AND/OR APPROVAL:

March 5, 2019 - Lloyd Phillips made the motion to approve the minutes. Tim Parish seconded the motion. All approved. Richard Barber abstained.

April 5, 2019 – Richard Barber made the motion to approve the minutes. Tim Parish seconded the motion. All approved. Lloyd Phillips abstained.

2. INFORMATION ONLY: Airport Usage Report

Tim Parish presented the Airport Usage spreadsheet. Usage was up in April. Lance reported it was handy to have this spreadsheet to show airport usage for the FAA funding. The FAA wished every airport would have a report like this.

3. INFORMATION ONLY: Report on Ely Air Races Committee Meeting Regarding the Ely Air Races for June 13-15, 2019

Lance Gale reported the air races have been cancelled. At the April 24th County Commission meeting the right thing to do was to recommend the air races be cancelled for lots of reasons. The 2018 air races did not have the attendance and lots of first time expenses. The insurance is the biggest expense at approximately \$70,000. The committee solicited sponsors to help cover the insurance cost. The If1 organization had a new president and he didn't have everything together. The deadline to have all of our paperwork in the FAA was April 25th. The FAA was to come to Ely the following week to watch our EMS/Fire mock drill, which is required as part of the certification after last year. The Inter-local Agreement between the County and the City of Ely left the City not prepared to take care of the ARFF requirements at the airport. There was not enough time to complete a new response plan with the new agency providing the service in such a limited amount of time. The combination of IF1 not being prepared, the EMS/Fire response plan not completed and knowing other county departments were having to make cuts the air races had to be cancelled. A commissioner had inquired about how many tickets had been sold. The response was less than 20. Statistics show that attendees for event like this don't normally purchase their tickets in advance. It was a mixture of all these circumstances as to why the air races were cancelled and no just one thing. Lloyd Phillips responded the lack of ARFF put the nail in the coffin in his opinion. Lance Gale responded the Reno Air Races want us to have this event, as they can see their event may be closing.

4. INFORMATION ONLY: Update on Airport Capital Improvement Projects

Lance reported starting on May 15th the main runway and taxiway will be closed up to 7 days while sweeping, fog sealing and striping take place. The South ramp will be the next project in July which will take 7 to 10 days to complete. In 2023 the airport fencing will be replaced.

5. INFORMATION ONLY: Update on BLM Modular Units on the South End of the Airport

The BLM modular units have been completed and are awaiting backup generators. Once the occupancy permit is acquired they will move in. The BLM reimburses the County for the expenses of this project.

6. INFORMATION ONLY: Update on Airport EMS & Fire Management, the Airport Crash Units (ARFF) and Basic Response with the New WP County & City of Ely Inter-local Agreement

7. *DISCUSSION/FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Recommendation to the County Commissioners Regarding ARFF (Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting) Coverage for the Ely Airport

Tim Parish opened agenda item 6 and 7. Lance Gale stated the City has sent a letter to the County Attorney stating they will be able to take care of all the EMS duties at the airport. Some of the City firefighters are familiar with the ARFF truck but are not certified. One member of the City Fire Dept. maybe certified by his certification paperwork hasn't been located. The Airport Manager has to sign off with the FAA on all paperwork and the response plan is going to have to be updated. All of the certifications for the ARFF individuals have to be sent with the response plan. The City has guaranteed they will respond.

Lance Gale added Tim has been trained and was certified as an ARFF fire fighter. Tim has indicated he would be willing to get recertified.

Tim Parish stated he doesn't think people understand, especially the Commissioners, the difference between an ARFF firefighter and a regular firefighter. ARFF requires special equipment and training.

Tim stated many times ARFF is required such as:

Two commercial airlines (the Med Flights and UPS) require ARFF at airports where they conduct business as part of their regulations.

Special uses, foreign military land to fuel. If we do not have ARFF coverage they will not stop for fuel resulting in lost taxes to the County.

The US military require ARFF coverage.

The airport is listed as an emergency alternate to Salt Lake, but we can't have it listed without ARFF.

We can't have air service. The first thing every air service will ask for is the emergency response plan.

Any air service with 10 passengers is required to have ARFF services.

We can't host events like the air races without ARFF services.

Grant funding could be jeopardized.

The airport needs an ARFF certified personnel to gain its' certification. There is concern regarding response time from the Ely Fire Station to the airport. Tim is willing to get recertified with ARFF to volunteer at the airport. It was the consensus to work on a plan with the City of Ely Fire Dept.

8. INFORMATION ONLY: Updates/Reports from Commission Liaison

Discussion took place about sending a letter to Steve Stork's family offering their condolences. Lloyd moved to create a letter to the family and it be signed by all the airport advisory members. Richard Barber seconded the motion. Tim Parish will draft a letter to send out the members for comments.

9. INFORMATION ONLY: Report from the Airport Manager

Lance Gale reported:

1. MedX AirOne hangar is moving forward. Lance stated the County Commission will be holding a public hearing on the lease of the ground at their May 8th meeting.
2. June 7th at 6:30 am the Steptoe Weed Abatement Association will be at the airport to conduct weed abatement. Volunteers are needed.
3. On May 13th the British military will be landing to fuel Chinook helicopters. City Fire Dept. will be at the airport before the landing and stay on sight until after takeoff.
4. May 28th the North side of the Navy Hangar will be painted.
5. May 29th the FAA will be present to sign-off on the FAA projects.
6. Lance requested the members to think about some future event that could be held at the airport since there will be no air races this year. Richard Barber suggested the time period of mid-September to October to hold an event.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS: For County Commission Agenda Items

11. RECOMMENDATIONS: For Airport Advisory Board Agenda Items

Agenda items were: usage report; Update on Airport Capital Improvement Projects; Day at the Airport of Events; Update on Airport EMS & Fire Management, the Airport Crash Units (ARFF) and Basic Response with the New WP County & City of Ely Inter-local Agreement

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Barber inquired if the 310 was going to be discarded. Lance Gale responded the paperwork has been filed with the FAA and it will go out to bid when everything is in place.

Tim Parish stated he wanted to go on record supporting Lance as the Airport Manager. He stated Lance has done a great job of promoting the airport, getting things done for the airport and done great things for the airport. Lance Gale responded he gets to be the Airport Manager. He has deep roots with the airport and aviation is his compassion.

10. *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to be addressed by the Airport Advisory Board, Tim Parish called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lloyd Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Barber seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 4, 2019