

REGULAR MEETING
BELEN ALEXANDER MUNICIPAL
AIRPORT COMMISSION

December 16, 2010
5:30 P.M.

FINAL

Airport Commission Chair Neil Hise called the Regular Meeting of the Belen Airport Commission held in the Belen City Council Chambers to order at 5:30 P.M. Roll call establishing a quorum was taken by Commission Chair, Neil Hise. Members as follows:

COMMISSION	Neil Hise, Chair
MEMBERS PRESENT	Martin Marchi, Member John Kennedy, Member Joe Trujillo, Member
COMMISSION	Charles Sanchez
MEMBERS ABSENT	
CITY STAFF:	Audrey Torres, CMC City Clerk Robert Uecker, Airport Manager
OTHERS:	Rudy Jaramillo, Mayor Tami Wiggins, Blue Skies Consulting

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commission Chair Neil Hise asked for approval of the agenda. Member Martin Marchi moved to approve the agenda. Member John Kennedy seconded the motion, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commission Chair Neil Hise asked for approval of the minutes from February 18, 2010 and April 22, 2010. Commission Member Martin Marchi moved to approve the minutes as presented and Commission Member Joe Trujillo seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

Joe Trujillo introduced himself to the Commission. He said that he had worked 30 years for the Belen Schools serving as a teacher and principal. He has been retired for about 5 years and he and his cousins just recently opened Fat Sats and Road Runner Pit Stop. He and his wife Teresa have three sons.

John Kennedy then introduced himself. He is the Pastor of the New Life Fellowship Church and a resident of Belen. He told the commission that he is very interested in making the airport grow and that it is a great asset to the City.

AIRPORT MANAGER REPORT

Robert Uecker reported to the Commission that the old building demolition is continuing. The Hangar area is all cleaned up and the bolts removed. You can now drive over it.

Mr. Uecker then reported on the ramp areas crack seal project. He said that the ramp areas have been crack sealed and new T spots painted on the ramps so now it is a lot clearer when planes are taxing in. This was an FAA Grant with the FAA giving providing 95%, the State 2.5% and the City 2.5%. The total amount was 97K.

He then spoke on the cross runway. He reported that all has been done that can be done to this point. Now it is a matter of waiting for the grant to design the runway. The Grant will be coming up this spring. He said that the Air Force Environmental assessment is progressing. He talked to Lt. Col Mike Doyle on Tuesday and he said that he is aware of no problems. It should go to public comment period sometime in late January or February. He reported that the runway project is following two parallel paths. It gets built one way or the other. Either as a lighter capacity general aviation runway. Or, if and when the Airforce chooses our airport and they participate in it, it could be built as a stronger runway for the C130s.

The next item Mr. Uecker talked about was the crew car. He reported that he switched the old 95 Taurus and sent it to auction and replaced it with a 2005 Impala from the Police Department and it is a good car. He said that he now has a lot more control of the keys. A form has to be filled out as to who has the car and it requires them to repair it if they wreck it.

He then reported on a State Aviation Grant that he had applied for. It is a new type of grant this year whereby the state will pay for consumable items that are used on the airport. Such as light bulbs, some very expense circuit boards that are in the signs and such items as windsocks. He has ordered \$4,900.00 worth of materials and they are trickling in so the grant is working out very well.

Mr. Uecker then reported on new business prospects. He said that he had been in discussion with the parent company CSI, Aviation who has acquired the western hemisphere rights for the Sea Bird Seeker airplane. This is a small observation type airplane that was designed and built in Australia. It is certified to fly in the United States so it is not a start up from nothing. They are looking for a location in this area to assemble and sell this airplane. He is working with Planning & Zoning/Economic Development to get them to locate at the airport. They are planning on hiring over 100 individuals and this would be a great opportunity for the city as well as the airport. They have asked for a RFP from Belen and we need to respond by January 14. He will work on it with Andrew Dicamillo. He reported that CSI is also considering Moriarity, Edgewood and Double Eagle as other locations.

The next item Mr. Uecker spoke on was the open house and pancake breakfast held on the 13th of November. He said the event was very successful and he estimated that there were about 300 people in attendance. He was pleased that most of the people were from out of town and were new to the airport. The Young Eagles an EEA Experimental Aircraft Association that flies introductory flights for kids between the ages of 7 and 17 gave over 40 free flights for kids. He told the Commission that he will probably have another open house sometime in the spring.

Mr. Uecker told the Commission that on December 20th at the City Council meeting a resolution will be presented to the council for their approval (a copy of the approved resolution 2010-24 is attached herewith and becomes an integral part of these minutes) that they need to be aware of. The resolution will just let the City know that the Air Force is supported in their low fly routes. Commissioner Marchi stated that the resolution was first started about a year ago. Mr. Uecker said he thought if it created discussion and questions within the City that would benefit the Airport.

Commissioner Trujillo asked about an event to be held on the upcoming Saturday at the Airport. Mr. Uecker said that Vicki Husbands will be making posole and tortillas for a fly in event to benefit the cause she is involved in.

Commissioner Hise acknowledged that Mayor Jaramillo was in attendance and asked if he would like to speak on any of the issues. Mayor Jaramillo spoke to the Commission about Seabird. He reported that he and Commissioner Hise will follow up with the main president of Seabird, Allen Wey and continue trying to get Seabird to choose the City of Belen at the airport. He then told the Commission that he had been having discussions with Sarah Cobb of Senator Udall's office. She has been visiting the airport trying to get internet communication up there.

A discussion followed between the Mayor and the Commission regarding the City and the Commission standing together to make things happen at the airport. Mayor Jaramillo told the Commission that Senator Michael Sanchez is aware of the Seabird issue and will do all he can to have them build at the airport.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Marchi stated that he was not aware of the things going on at the airport because had had not been as involved as he could. Commissioner Hise then discussed the issue of better communications between the commission, the mayor and the city.

Commissioner Hise asked Mr. Uecker about signage and or markings for the ramp where the planes taxi in for fuel. Mr. Uecker said that the word fuel is marked on the old building but people do not usually look up. He also reported that he gives directions on the radio and answers any questions they might have. Commissioner Hise asked if some lower signage for fuel could be added and Mr. Uecker said he would look into it.


Commissioner Hise then called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kennedy moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Marchi seconded the motion.

The motion carried and the Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.



Neil Hise, Chair,
Belen Airport Commission

ATTEST:



Lucy Baca, Belen City Manager/CMC