

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Winslow Airport Commission held on April 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room, 21 Williamson Avenue, Winslow, Arizona 86047. All members of the Commission appeared telephonically.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Lazzarini
Commissioner Blalock
Commissioner Coolidge
Commissioner Kenna
Commissioner Patton

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF

John Barkley,
Airport Manager

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lazzarini at 4:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Commissioner Kenna. Roll was called and all Commission Members were present.

Motion: None.

Approval of minutes – March 29, 2021

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Blalock, seconded by Commissioner Coolidge to approve the minutes of March 29, 2021 as presented. Motion passed unanimously with Chairman Lazzarini and Commissioners Blalock, Coolidge, Patton and Kenna voting yes.

Call to the Public

None.

Report by Wiseman Aviation on Current Airport Activities

Orville Wiseman, of Wiseman Aviation, provided information regarding activity at the airport for the past month. Mr. Wiseman stated he is working with City crews regarding issues with weeds, concrete reported requiring replacement, and other problems. He stated they are trying to get as much done in these next few weeks to get ready for whatever tanker activity they may have this year.

Mr. Wiseman further commented on repairs and remodel projects to the terminal building, including addition of kitchen facilities and other amenities.

Mr. Wiseman returned to the subject of subleasing the entire terminal building, including the kitchen/restaurant portion of the building. He spoke of doing some remodeling of the old manager's office into a conference room facility, and a desire to get someone into the kitchen/restaurant area so that it does not decline.

Mr. Wiseman advised that they are keeping fuel inventory up to a maximum level to be prepared for season. He reported on distribution issues within the State and the need to stay ahead of what will be required.

Grant Wiseman gave a summary of the concrete repairs, indicating that the goal is to get it taken care of swiftly. He reiterated their hope in getting someone into the restaurant soon, and hoped to get some word on anyone who is interested in taking it over.

Mr. Wiseman answered questions about runway 4/22 and some moisture issues that had developed and caused some concern with possibly needing to close the runway. Mr. Wiseman thanked the City for helping so quickly with the issue, and left the matter to be discussed more by the Airport Manager.

Report by Airport Manager

The Airport Manager reported that the City is more dedicated to attending to necessary issues that come up at the airport. He indicated appreciation to Mr. Wiseman and his crew for their ability to step up on behalf of the City to get things taken care of at the airport. Mr. Wiseman spoke of the potential of the airport as the largest airport in Northeastern Arizona. The Airport Manager spoke of moving more quickly with financial issues that arise with the airport.

The Airport Manager stated that he has issued an emergency appropriation to get moving on the repair project of Runway 4/22 and to get prepared for the tanker season and other heavy aircraft. He stated that an assessment regarding the drainage issue will be handled later on. He advised that the cost of repairs would run about \$50,000.00 to fix the cracking and heaving for this season, but that there may be some redundancy with more repairs required next year.

The Airport Manager stated the City has finalized a 'through the fence' agreement with Guardian Air, which is now under review by the FAA to make any suggestions they may have. He stated this agreement will expand the City's revenue base by bringing in more rental revenues at the Airport. He stated that this hangar is not on the airport grounds, but is adjacent, with access to the runway. He stated that Guardian Air will remain in their current base while work progresses. The Airport Manager answered questions regarding the language of the lease as to any restrictions to a sublease Guardian may grant to their hangar facilities. He indicated that there is language that requires the City to approve any sublease, and that it would need to be related to the aviation industry. The Airport Manager further stated that he sees the agreement as a fix for some of the circumstances that have been happening recently.

The Airport Manager advised that the City Real Estate Broker, Ken Berkhoff, is currently looking for someone to come into the restaurant, and advised that being open on the weekends is part of the plans.

The Airport Manager advised further that the Historical Preservation Commission continues to work on an historical designation for the hangar and the terminal, and that the small patch of concrete Orville Wiseman referred to will be fixed.

Chairman Lazzarini advised that he would be willing to offer his services to produce a video to promote, especially the restaurant, but the airport as well, to help get the word out about the availability of the airport café. The Airport Manager indicated he would get a key to anyone that needs access to the café.

Report by Airport Engineer

Lance McIntosh with C&S reported that Runway 4/22 repair is underway. PAVEX plans to begin repairs on Wednesday, and estimates it will take 5 to 6 days, so will definitely be completed by the end of the month.

Taxiway B is moving forward. The majority of sub-base is in place and they will start hauling in the base course. Once that is finished they will pave and stripe it. It is slated to be finished the end of May.

The City received a grant from ADOT Aeronautics to design the reconstruction of 11/29. In the past the FAA and ADOT both took the position that the runway project was not needed and they would not fund improvements. ADOT has since changed that position and we now will be able to move forward on that project.

The FAA is issuing a grant this year to perform the drainage study airport-wide, which will include schematic plans up to about the 30% level of what needs to be done. That will be the basis for future drainage projects to help eliminate damage.

He advised that the FAA grant coming in this year on the drainage study is a 100% grant, so no City funds will be required. He advised that the same applies to Taxiway B and the construction on that project. These projects will be 100% funded by FAA.

The Airport Engineer answered questions regarding whether funds might become available through the government infrastructure package, indicating there may be funding, but there is no way to tell where that funding will be utilized. A discussion followed regarding watching for funds that may become available, especially for use on the rest of the ramp that still needs work.

The Airport Engineer answered further questions from Enrique Pacheco from the Tanker Base regarding the repairs to Taxiway B, indicating they could request PAVEX to begin repair/paving at the south end. Additionally, he provided information regarding making the one other pit useable if it becomes necessary, and discussion followed.

Mr. Pacheco provided information about the possibility of putting a home base tanker at each tanker base in the region throughout the fire season, which would include one in Winslow. He indicated they are anticipating a heavy fire season this year, and the Tanker Base is ready to open up when needed. He advised that as of now he wouldn't be comfortable putting anything in Pit 1, Pit 2 can only take 2 seats, and Pit 3 could take heavy equipment, but that would need to be coordinated with Wiseman. He stated the base could open right now if needed. He advised there are 3 tankers in Arizona right now. Mr. Pacheco answered logistical questions regarding placement of the tanker if it comes to Winslow, indicating that a tanker would sit in the pit and be moved off if more tanker activity is necessary. He indicated the official opening date for the Tanker Base is May 3rd.

Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Commissioner Coolidge and seconded by Commissioner Blalock to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with Chairman Lazzarini and Commissioners Blalock, Coolidge, Patton and Kenna voting yes.

CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Commission Secretary