

## Aransas County Airport January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Members present were Chairman Travis McDavid, Vice Chair Betty Stiles, and Jim Rester. Also in attendance, County Judge Ray Garza, Precinct 3 County Commissioner and Liaison to the Commissioners Court Pat Rousseau, Mike Geer, Secretary/Airport Manager, and the following citizens: Jeff Hutt, Cody Stewart, and Jerry Brown.

1. 9:00a Meeting called to order by Chairman McDavid.
2. 9:00a Quorum Declared.

### Action Items

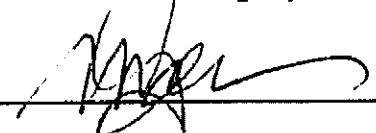
3. 9:01a Previous Meeting Minutes. Motion was made by Vice Chair Stiles to approve the minutes from the November 2<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Member Rester and passed unanimously.

### Discussion Items

4. 9:02a Discussion of the Fly-In Event. Mike Geer, Cody Stewart and Jerry Brown who all served on the Fly-In Committee and raised the money for it, presented to the members. Geer told the members that between 2000 and 2500 people were believed to be in attendance and the he saw many of them as they walked in and out and all were happy to have this type of event in our community. Geer noted that money raised went toward covering the cost of the 45 Young Eagles flights that took place along with another 25 Discovery Flights. There was additional discussion about the difference between an Air-Show and a Fly-In and how the Coastal Bend Fly-In will hopefully transition into an Airshow while continuing to make the Young Eagle flights and static displays available for the youth of our region. The Coastal Bend Holiday Fly-In/Airshow will continue to be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in December as that has proven to be the best time over the last 4 years to have potentially good weather and not conflict with other aviation related events in the region.
5. 9:26a *Mike Geer requested to move item number 11 up so that individuals who needed to leave early could hear a presentation.* Geer gave a brief presentation on the different opportunities which the board members and ultimately the county commissioner may be presented with as it pertains to the unbuilt hangars. Geer proposed that the county accept an offer from the insurance company to purchase 3 private hangars which they would then present to the county as like-and-kind replacements for Hangar Small, Hangar Blue, and Hangar T-6. Geer noted that the Actual Cash Value, if accepted in lieu of the hangars through a settlement with insurance, would only offer temporary relief to the airport fund and that owning rentable hangars was more advisable due to looming airport cash flow deficits year over year. Member Rester offered that it may be worthwhile to explore investment opportunities with the ACV cash. Geer stated that he was unsure of restrictions which may affect the County Treasurer's ability to invest the cash but that he would find out for sure and report back. Geer added it was his opinion that the benefit of owning the hangar outweighed investing the ACV because of what the hangar represented with respect to the airport's status in NPIAS, fuel sales, and satisfying his waiting list. Geer told the members that the airport was now classified as Regional in NPIAS after having been recently upgraded to its pre-hurricane status due to possessing a qualifying number of based aircraft once again. Geer concluded by informing the members that his plan would include accepting the ACV for the Block Hangar (Car Barn) because it wasn't being used as a hangar before Harvey and would likely not be rebuilt the same or located in the previous spot even if it were reconstructed. He said that the former PHI hangar was serving as an adequate car barn/utility building and that the \$1.08 million in ACV from Block could be put directly into the airport fund and or invested for the benefit of the airport revenue. Finally, under this agenda item, Geer said that he was in receipt of resignation letters from Members Rick Smith and Duane Scheumack. No action was taken.
6. 9:53a Discussion of General Operations. Geer informed the members that there had been no safety issues or runway incursions to report since the last meeting. He noted that tourism and recreational flying had fallen

off for December 2022 which ended up being one of the slowest months of the year for jet fuel sales. Geer added that an uptick in avgas sales was due to the high volume of fuel sold at the Fly-In. No action was taken.

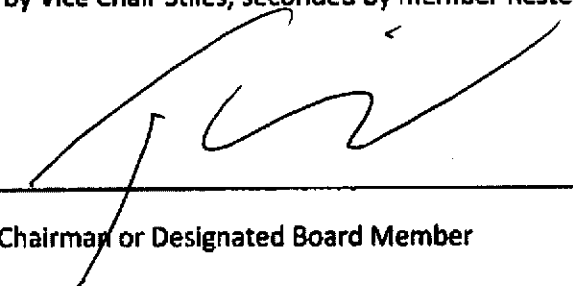
7. 9:55a Discussion of Financial Statements. Geer told the members that the yearend financial report revealed that the airport had operated at a negative cash flow for the year by more than \$80,000. Geer said if the airport had been operating at full capacity and all hangars were operational then the airport would have easily turned a profit. No action was taken.
8. 9:57a Discussion of Construction projects. Geer informed the members that Hangar T-4 will likely be ready to occupy by February and that work has begun on T-1 and T-2 foundations. Geer said the metal is on the ground and ready to be erected for both and upon their completion, no further construction projects are planned. No action was taken.
9. 10:06a Discussion of Airport Lighting Issues. Geer informed the members that the runway and taxiway lights are operating as advertised but that the NavAids are experience prolonged outages. Geer told the members that an electrical engineer has been hired by FPS to provide a rough order of magnitude for the airfield lighting issues. He told the members that appropriate NOTAMs have been filed. No action was taken.
10. 10:10a Discussion of Grants. Geer said there had been no new information about the airfield lighting generator grant however the insurance company was still evaluating whether or not it needed to be replaced as part of the Harvey claim. He said WPI had been out to perform an assessment but that the generator would need extensive work in order to be able to be load tested for a final determination. FPS is working with WPI to make a final determination whether to replace or not. Geer then told the members that the drainage project pre bid meeting would be on schedule for Jan 11. He said that a prospective bidder called Geer to say that if they bid they wouldn't be able to start on the project until April. Geer said that he could accept that time frame as long as the State could work with it. As a reminder, Geer told the members that no bids were received on the first request. No action was taken.
11. 10:15a Discussion of Long Term Marketing. Geer told the members that he had been invited by Jeff Sjoström of the EDC to be a part of a local economic forum at the Rockport Center for the Arts on Jan 27. Geer said that Jeff was pitching an economic publication to promote local tourism and development. Geer proposed that he will continue to explore opportunities to work with Jeff on marketing the airport. No action was taken.
12. 10:25a Discuss Items for Future Meeting. No items were suggested at this time.
13. 10:25a Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Stiles, seconded by member Rester and passed unanimously.
14. 10:25a Meeting Adjourned

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Geer, Secretary

2/1/23

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman or Designated Board Member