

Aransas County Airport April 6th, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Members present were Vice Chair Betty Stiles and Jim Rester. Also in attendance, Commissioner Pat Rousseau, Liaison to the Commissioners Court, Mike Geer, Secretary/Airport Manager, and Jerry Brown. Absent, Chairman Travis McDavid, Member Duane Scheumack and Member Rick Smith.
2. 9:02a Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Stiles.
3. 9:02a There could be no quorum due to only 2 members being present.
4. 9:03a Vice Chairman Stiles stated that the minutes from the March 10th meeting would need to be voted on at the next meeting if a quorum were present.
5. 9:05a Discussion of General operations. Airport Manager Geer briefed the board members on flight operations, fuel sales and trends in the fuel market. Jerry Brown announced news about alternative aviation gasolines which are starting to appear. Geer made a note that he is well involved in the discussion about these new fuels and that our airport will follow guidance from TxDOT Aviation and FAA. Geer added that jet traffic fuel sales continues to be the economic driver for our airport. Geer informed the members about drainage issues which have resulted due to a TxDOT owned easement ditch on the other side of Highway 35 which needed to be re-graded. Geer will be following up with TxDOT in order to try to get the work completed. No action was taken.
6. 9:30a Discussion of Financial Statements. Geer informed the members that the airport cash flow for the month of March was in excess of \$145,000 due to a payment received from Regional Pool Alliance and that the payment had been applied to a revenue line which had not previously received money to his knowledge. Geer said he believed the payment was applied to the line item due to the fact that the money wasn't representative of Loss-of-Use, rather, according to Kathleen Hicks of RPA it had been drawn from the Actual Cash Value of Hangar T-6 which was not intended to be rebuilt. Geer noted that as of this date, Loss-of-Use revenue which was *reported by Kathleen Hicks as owed to the airport at a previous board meeting* had not been received. Geer said he believed the amount owed for 2021 was around \$182,000 according to his recollection of Hicks's report. Geer added that he believed he could show where a year's worth of Airport Loss-of-Use payments had not been received for the year 2020. Member Rester stated that an independent audit may be in order. Geer informed the members about the rising costs of insurance premiums and suggested that he may make a proposal to the Commissioners Court at budget time about allocating money from the general fund to help offset premium increases. Vice Chair Stiles suggested that the airport might be eligible for Hotel Occupancy Tax funds given its influence on tourism. Geer said that would be a decision of the Commissioners Court and he would follow up on it. No action was taken.
7. 9:40a Discussion of Construction Projects. Geer informed the members that nothing significant occurred since the last meeting and that Kathleen Hicks had briefed him about what would be necessary for the construction of Hangar Tall to resume. Geer informed the members he felt safe that the airport would be able to retain the customer, Texas Highway Patrol, but that finishing the hangar wouldn't necessarily result in leasable space due to the fact that pre-engineered metal buildings are still being stored in the unfinished hangar bay. Geer said he and Hicks agreed that if Hangar T-4 could be built simultaneously then the PEMB could be stored in one of its bays. Geer added that it would be potentially harmful if the airport were to file another airspace study for T-4 with FAA and then fail to act on it. He said it would be wise for him to stay directly involved with Hicks and the new contractor in order to ensure the study could be filed in the appropriate timeframe. Geer informed the members that Hicks indicated to him that there would need to be resolution between Don Jackson Construction and RPA before the new contractor could go to work. Member Rester said that he recalled we had decided to take action with DJC without involving Kathleen Hicks. Geer advised that the decision to take action continues to lie with the Commissioners Court. No action was taken.
8. 9:50a Discussion of Airfield Lighting Repairs. Geer advised the members that everything which was working as of the last meeting was still working. He stated that he had received word from Nathan Patton at Rural Electric that our new regulator would ship in May and the boards for PAPI lights would ship in April. Geer

said that the dedicated Rural Electric technician, Alonso, would be on site to install once all the parts were received. Commissioner Rousseau noted the marked improvement in service since Nathan Patton has been in charge of our repairs. No action was taken.

9. 9:55a Discussion of Grants. Geer said that he would submit a request for reimbursement from RAMP as soon as Rural was finished with their work on the lights. He added that he recently submitted a preliminary application for an FAA grant through the Build Back Better Law which would increase the square footage of the terminal and also relocate the fuel farm but that the decision would be that of the Commissioners Court when and if the FAA approves which is expected to be made known in July of 2022. Geer made note that any value added to the terminal would likely result in a higher insurance premium which he intends to have more discussions with the commissioners at budget time. There was some discussion about land release for potential new revenue streams to which Geer added that it's hard to gauge interest in things such as technical schools or industrial complexes when the timeframe for release is nearly 2 years. Geer noted that any land release from aeronautical designation would be subject to intense scrutiny from FAA with no guarantees and that entities which develop non aero ventures on federally obligated airports tend to rely heavily on lobby at the federal level in order to influence FAA. Geer reminded the members that the final decision on a land release lies with the Commissioners Court. No Action was taken.
10. 10:20a Fly-In. Geer informed the members that he decided to abandon the request for a Fly-In which would have been scheduled for May 28-29 due to conflicting local events as well as regional aviation events. Geer stated that it may be better to stick to a December Fly-In event since the last 2 have been reasonably successful.
11. 10:25a Discussion of Non Agenda Items. Nothing was discussed.
12. 10:26a Discussion of Future Meeting Agenda Items. Texas Open Meetings Act will be on the agenda for the next meeting when all members can be present.
13. 10:27a A motion was made to adjourn by Vice Chairman Stiles, seconded by member Rester and carried unanimously.



Mike Geer, Secretary

5/4/2022



Chairman or Designated Board Member

Date