

# AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

September 8, 2010

## MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Woody Gilliland, Vice Chairman, Stan Egger, Joe Crowder, Cindy Haley, Jim Leonard, Stan Egger, Myrna Grigsby, Kirk Thaxton, David Lynn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lawrence Gill, Chairman, Jimi Coplen

**AIRPORT STAFF:** Don Green, Chris Taylor, Melissa Murphy, Alex Cargile

**CITY EMPLOYEES:** Dan Santee, City Attorney

**VISITORS:** Tim Poer – National Air Traffic Controllers Association

### REGULAR SESSION

**1. Call to order.**

Mr. Gilliland called the Airport Development Board meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

**2. Introduce visitors**

Mr. Gilliland introduced, Mr. Poer with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association.

**3. Consideration and Action approving minutes of the August 2010 meeting**

Mr. Gilliland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the August 2010 meeting. Hearing none, the August 2010 meeting minutes stood approved as distributed.

**4. Economic Development Department Report**

Mr. Burdine was unavailable to provide the Economic Development Department Report.

**5. Facilities and Planning Sub Committee Report**

Mr. Gilliland presented the Facilities and Planning Sub Committee Report.

Air Carrier Ramp Area E – In progress. Currently ahead of schedule.

T-Hangar Taxilane Project – Chris has developed a plan to handle the outage of one of the Abilene Aero entrance gates. Contractor is expected to be completed in 5 months.

**6. Airport Management Report:**

**a. Review and acknowledgement of the Statistical Reports**

Enplanements are down 11% year to date. The enplanements for August are down 15%. The economy is hurting and the wind turbine construction is coming to a stop. There are no numbers showing that the airport is losing more flights to Dallas. American Eagle is showing improvement system wide, but Abilene has not seen that yet. Enplanements being down are having a direct impact on parking and rental car revenues.

**b. Budget Update**

The City is in the process of closing out this year's budget. The City is closing out the fiscal year earlier than normal due to the implementation of a new accounting system.

**c. American Eagle Divestiture Update**

There has been no new development since the meeting in June.

**d. TRACON Consolidation**

The FAA is looking to consolidate the Abilene TRACON into the system in Fort Worth. There will still be approach services in Abilene, which has been confirmed verbally to both the Airport and Dyess AFB. Mr. Green had a teleconference that confirmed that the airport will have the same services that it has now. This includes the approaches used by the military for training. The FAA has agreed to have a public stakeholders meeting to address any issues with the consolidation. There will be fewer positions in Abilene and those positions will be relocated to Dallas. The FAA claims that this is a cost saving measure. NATCA disagrees and believes that the savings are based on a faulty model.

It was discussed that the loss of jobs in Abilene may have no positive impact should the cost saving model be faulty. The loss of jobs in Abilene is a concern of the board. Mr. Poer with NATCA believes that there will eventually be a loss of staffing. A reduction in staffing could cause a change in the hours of operation for the airport. Currently the tower operates 24/7. Mr. Poer believes that approach services will be compromised over time despite the FAA's assurances. The airport has been in communication with Congressman Neugebauer's offices. They are ready to aid the airport if it is decided that the airport needs to take a stand against these changes. Mr. Green believes that after the planned stakeholders meeting it would be the time to make a decision one way or the other. The open forum will allow for all questions to be addressed and a final determination to be made. The meeting will probably take place after the review of the business model. Currently the base of the Air Traffic Control Tower does not have the equipment for the TRACON. They would have to do a change order to add the TRACON equipment to the ATCT. The FAA and Dyess have an agreement for specific types of approach services. The FAA has said that they are going to honor those LOA's.

**e. Update on Current Projects –**

1. Air Carrier Ramp Area E - 23% complete. Progressing very well.
2. T-Hangar Taxilane Area C – 4.8% complete. A lot of work has been done, but not approved. Completion can be up to 3x higher.
3. New Control Tower – On the third form. Each form is 16 ft 8 in.
4. Runway 17L/35R Localizer – Operational.
5. ARFF Truck – Ready to go once authorized.
6. Projects in design – Taxiway EASI & C

**f. Air Service and Business Development Update**

- **Airline pricing** – Staff is watching airport pricing compared to other airports.
- **SCASD Extension** – The airport has requested an extension to the SCASDI grant.
- **FY11 Marketing Plan** – Last year the airport had a budget of \$30,000 plus additional money in an unused purchase order. DCOA pays for the business development program. The airport requested more money for marketing and the DCOA approved it. The airport will continue to do passenger appreciation days. The Hilton Garden Inn will be hosting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. The airport VIP passengers appreciate these events.

**Executive Session:**

**Pursuant to Govt. Code Section 551.072, a governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person. Additionally, Section 551.087 allows a governmental body to discuss or deliberate on commercial or financial information that has been received from a business prospect that the governmental body seeks to have locate, stay, or expand in or near the City and with which there may be ongoing negotiations or deliberate the offer of a financial or other incentive to a business prospect. Further, Section 551.071 provides that a governmental body may seek advice from its attorney regarding a pending or contemplated litigation subject, settlement offer, or attorney-client privileged information. After discussion in executive session, any action or vote will be taken in public.**

The Executive Session was not held.

**7. Consideration and Action to recommend accepting a Task Order with URS for construction management of the Airport Lighting Control System and Beacon replacement project.**

Total project cost is \$78,685.27 funded at 95% federal, 5% local.

Motion to accept made by Mr. Crowder and Seconded by Mr. Leonard. Motion passed.

**8. Consideration and Action to recommend award of the construction contract for the Airport Lighting Control System and Beacon replacement project.**

This item is for the construction portion of the project with Epic Construction being the winning bidder. The cost of this item is \$656,935. This falls in at approximately \$100,000 below the engineer's estimates. This includes a new lighting control vault. This will replace the existing vault.

Motion to accept made by Mr. Leonard and Seconded by Mr. Crowder. Motion passed.

**9. Consideration and Action to recommend accepting Amendment #1 to AIP Grant 40.**

AIP Grant 40 was approved by the board for \$1,198,000. The board approved up to \$1.2 Million. Grant 38 was closed with \$16,000 left in the grant. The FAA has agreed to move to Grant 40. This will add an additional \$50,000 from the FAA for airfield markings. These markings are required by the FAA. Amendment 1 will be for \$50,000 in addition to Grant 40.

Motion to accept made by Mr. Thaxton and Seconded by Mr. Crowder. Motion passed.

**10. Adjourn.**

Motion to adjourn at 4:39 pm made by Mr. Crowder. Seconded by Mr. Leonard. Motion passed.