



Airport Board Meeting
City Council Chambers
203 S. Pacific, Kelso WA 98626
Thursday, August 13, 2009

Those present were as follows:

Airport Board:

Gerald Malella, City of Kelso
Ken Botero, City of Longview
Darold Dietz, Port of Longview
George Raiter, Cowlitz County

Staff

Dennis Richards, City Manager
Becky Hill, Department Assistant
Brian Butterfield, Finance Director
Don Bell, Assistant Airport Director
Denny Wise, Airport Manager

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Chairperson Darold Dietz.
2. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2009 – Motion made, motion second, motion passed.
3. Acknowledgment of Vouchers- Acknowledged vouchers in the amount of \$63,924.82. Motion made, motion second, motion passed.
4. **Public Comments –Don Bell** made references to Life Flight to the fact that they are ready to move onto the Airport and they have contacted Engineering Department. He hopes that this board can push this through to the City Council. These people have been in the community for a year, have a million dollar payroll and have spent a lot of money on a helicopter and so forth. He would like to ask the Board to make a motion to the City Council to push this forward.

Dwight Irby-6114 Willow Grove Road, Longview WA-addressed Life Flight "I don't think it would behoove the city to rush into it without doing their due diligences on this. The pilots of the helicopters are not training for IFR take-offs. We also need to think of all the safety issues when placing them at the airport in regards to other aircraft.

Questions were asked of Dennis Richards, City Manager who stated that we as a City are sending out letters to other companies of this nature to see if anyone else is interested as we just cannot look at one group and not ask others if they are interested and see what they have to offer. We do not feel this while take any amount of time. We do have water and sewer ready and we are ready to place the modular unit there. It has actually been Life Flight that has slowed the process down. The last we heard was they (Life Flight) liked it at the hospital.

Denny Wise shared with the board that his observations from the conversations with the Life Flight pilots, that the majority of the transports have not been initiated from the hospital with a patient at the hospital, it has mostly been responding to a scene and then going somewhere else, knowing that they also serve the coastal areas from here and they have been doing a lot of calls to the coast out of here as well. They are actually getting so busy that a pilot the other day stated they were thinking about having two helicopters located here. Just last week they were on a call up north of here and they had a call locally and they had to call in a helicopter from Hillsboro to do the local transport. I will back up a bit and say that 2 meetings ago, they contacted Denny Wise and told him they were interested and he told them at that time to call the city.

Denny also wanted to advise the board that Life Flight is a non-profit and that they are owned by Consortium Hospital group based out of Hillsboro, Oregon and so they already have relationships with the hospitals in this area, so it would take a bit to establish relationships with someone new coming in. He also has been told by Life Flight that if you already have an Air Ambulance license for a particular region and in order to obtain a license by another company for service in the same region, they would have to prove the need for another company for the same service. They are other companies, but these guys set up and no one bothers to come in.

Motion: Ask City Council and City Staff to move forward expeditiously with the RFP with citing an Air Ambulance type company at the airport. Motion made, Motion Second (at this time Mr. Irby approached the microphone and expressed his comments about the spending of airport funds unnecessarily if we do not have a contract with anyone and put in things using airport money that will not even be used for this). Mr. Raiter referenced the rules of order stating that the only discussion on a motion is between the persons voting on the motion.

Motion passed.

Mr. Irby asked about the weeds and grass that is growing up around the new building? He had heard the contractor stated he wasn't responsible for it and that the city would be responsible. He feels that is really going to be a major job taking care of those ditches, the weeds and so on and so forth. Denny noted that it is unfortunate that as part of that contract water treatment system and to be able to put impervious surfaces there was to put ditches around those building to help treat the water before it went into the settling ponds that you cannot pave over, put in perforated pipe or anything of that nature. It was hydro seeded when the original work was done. It was done too late in the year so no grass grew and weeds established there instead. So probably spraying of the weeds is not an option.

5. **FBO Written Report** –Economy is still having an impact on general aviation as well as the corporate side of flying. Maintenance is still slow. Denny stated he picked up an individual who had been laid off just to keep him busy until things start picking up.
6. **Airport Manager Report** – Still have wildlife issues. Hangar contractor is putting up the skin. and he is just going to construct the shell and not put in the electrical until he starts to fill them up. The Beech Craft that has been there for 12 years has finally left the airport. More vegetation has been removed and is looking pretty good. The large trees through the efforts of Don Bell and some volunteers have pulled them out by the roots and will be ran through the chipper some time soon. It took 2 or 3 days to remove

the trees. Don Bell also wanted to give thanks for the assistance from the Cowlitz County Jail Crew. They are always doing a fine job for the Airport. Mike Houtchins will donate his time to stripe the tie down stripes, so we were able to save \$8,000 for the budget. We will be having a luncheon or something to give recognition for the volunteers for the work that they did at the airport. Crack sealing at the airport will begin on 8/18 from 6:00 am to noon. He said it should only take about 4 days to complete even though he was given a window of two weeks. They will be using a product foam that will plug the cracks up that are really deep.

Hangar Repairs- There was one hangar that was needing some repairs for awhile now. It has been on the list for a while. It was John Leber's hangar and he almost got hurt on it a couple of times so we treated it as an emergency repair. Mike Houtchins fixed that for us and did a fantastic job. He welded things and did all kinds of things rather than just greasing the tracks and it is working better than it has for a long time.

7. Public Works Director Report

a. Security Plan –

b. Master Plan Update –The FAA had noted the only key item they were going to give us a variance on was that the railroad was too close. They wanted some kind of an agreement with the railroad that the Airport can have some kind of access to maintain that area and make sure safety issues mitigated as much as possible. There has been great progress with all parties in trying to accomplish this.

c. Hangar Construction Update – See above

d. Wildlife Management Plan- Nothing new to report.

Denny Richards told the board about 8 new safety signs that will be going up at the airport this month.

Paver at the west end is being done by William Stanley and Son and is to be completed by August 31, 2009.

The next meeting is September 10, 2009 at 3:00 PM at City Council Chambers at 203 S. Pacific.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Becky Hill, Recording Secretary

Darold Dietz, Chairman