

Minutes of Meeting
Airport & Airport Advisory Board Update
September 28, 2020
9:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Airport Director Steven Kjergaard, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Airport Advisory Board Chair Joan Genter.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Review 9/9/2020 Airport Advisory Board Meeting (Discussion)

Airport Advisory Board Joan Genter reported that the Advisory Board discussed the Budget. She said that Airport Director Steven Kjergaard provided them with an overview and informed them that the Airport was only \$161,000 short of breaking even, which was much better than in previous years.

Ms. Genter said she had received several noise complaints from local residents. She recommended that area realtors receive more education about discussing aircraft flight zones with their clients.

Mr. Kjergaard remarked that the Airport was getting busier in all respects. He said this had been the busiest flight training year they had ever had and their two FBOs (Fixed Based Operators) had sold over 400,000 gallons of jet fuel during July and August.

Mr. Kjergaard commented that they had an issue this year with having multiple aircraft in waiting patterns over the Airport. He said there were days this summer that there were seven aircraft holding. In response to a question from Chairman Fillios, he said that a tower was required when an airport reached 250,000 operations (combined takeoffs and landings) or if an accident occurred that indicated an unsafe environment on the field. Then the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) would start the process for a tower. He noted that they were only at about 90,000 operations at this time but added he still planned to submit an application for a control tower this winter. The issue, he said, was that the FAA response would be, "well, build us a tower," but that would cost the County between seven and twelve million dollars. He stated that he planned to find out what it would take to bring in a temporary tower from May 1 through September 30 of next year.

Mr. Kjergaard reported that he had discussed the Runway 20/24 holding area reconfiguration with the U.S. Forest Services. He noted that the Advisory Board had

settled on Option “A,” for the larger holding area. He said that the Forest Service was pleased with that choice.

Mr. Kjergaard reminded the Commissioners that the NIC (North Idaho College) Aerospace Education Program would be closed at the end of next year. He said they had not been able to find funding for the power plant program to couple with the airframe program, which would have probably allowed it to continue.

Mr. Kjergaard announced that most of the gates at the Airport would have proximity card access as of October 1, 2020. He said a few gates had remained as key code access, but the codes would be changed on a regular basis.

Mr. Kjergaard said they had completed their updated organizational chart and would have staff on duty from 5:00 a.m. to 1 a.m. every day next summer.

Mr. Kjergaard stated that the Airport had two FAA grants active at the moment. He said one was for the north side Taxiway D, to create a new connection for new hangars and the ARFF (Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting) station and the other was for wildlife fence on the western and northern sides of the Airport.

CARES Act Fund Management (Action)

Mr. Kjergaard commented that the Auditor’s Office had helped them access CARES Act funds to reimburse staff costs. He said they would receive the money next year. He explained the reasoning he and the Auditor’s Office had used to determine the proper way to apply the funds and confirmed they would receive was \$69,000.

No motion was required at this time.

Hangar Development (Discussion)

Mr. Kjergaard reported that the Airport was going to run out of space for new hangars shortly. He said they had ten development lots left and typically did about ten in a given year. He commented that they did have a plan to create new spaces, but wanted to let the Board know the situation so they could consider whether they wanted to declare the Airport was full or begin the process to create new spaces. He noted that he was considering ways to make new development eligible for FAA reimbursement.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing.

Mr. Kjergaard said they had received the Idaho State System Plan update, which dealt with the economic impact of airports. He noted that the Kootenai County Airport created an economic impact of just over \$208 million in this area. He said it had increased from \$130 million over the past ten years.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
