

**Airport Advisory Board Public Hearing
Fremont County Airport
February 20, 2012
8:00am**

Members Present: John Marietta, Chairman; Leonard Mino; Jay Seavy; Greg Tabuteau; Tom Schilf; Dean Baird; Jim Woolworth

Other Officials Present: Airport Manager Richard Baker

Other Attendees: John Emmerling; Wesley Brandt; Hans Meisler; James McCallister; Skip Moreau; Kendra Boysen; Steve Archibald

Purpose: This meeting was called to hear comments on a working draft of the proposed Rules and Regulations for the Fremont County Airport dated January 20, 2012.

The meeting was called to order at 0800 by Chairman John Marietta.

Attendees who wished to make a public comment on the proposed rules and regulations were invited to sign up for a 5 minute time slot to speak.

Chairman Marietta opened with comments on the background leading to these proposed regulations:

FAA grant assurances expect airport sponsors to have airport “Rules and Regulations” in place to assure safety and efficiency of airport operations and “Minimum Standards and Requirements for the Conduct of Commercial Aeronautical Services” to ensure a safe, efficient and adequate level of quality and services is offered to the public.

“Minimum Standards for the Conduct of Commercial Aeronautical Services” at the Fremont County Airport were approved by the county commissioners in 1999. “Airport Rules and Regulations” were also proposed, but never approved. Again in 2005, airport rules were proposed but not approved.

The lack of rules and regulations at the airport is an ongoing shortcoming to full compliance with FAA expectations and it could jeopardize both future and past grants. Consequently “airport rules” have, once again, been drafted and are being proposed for adoption. Public comments submitted to the County Commissioners were considered in the January 20, 2012 update of these rules. Several comments were from tenants who could not find an FAA requirement for these rules and did not believe they were necessary.

The FAA Airport Compliance Manual, Order 5190.6B, addresses airport sponsors’ obligations to the federal government in return for receipt of federal grant money. Paragraph 7.8.c of that order states “The sponsor should adopt and enforce adequate rules, regulations or ordinances as necessary to ensure safety and efficiency of airport operations and to protect the public using the airport”. Airport Rules and Regulations are required.

In the past a combative relationship has at times existed between the airport board and tenants. That has made it difficult to advance issues that are mutually beneficial to the county, the airport and the tenants. The boards’ goal is to change that relationship to one of open cooperation and trust. We want to involve tenants in all actions being considered by the board. This meeting, specifically, is to hear any public comments and concerns regarding the proposed Airport Rules and Regulations.

The floor was then opened to attendees who signed up make comments:

John Emmerling: Requested to pass since he had not had a chance to review the proposed rules (difficulty locating the draft on the Fremont County website).

James McCallister: Doesn't believe Federal funds are worth the assurances we must provide to get them. We are giving up our civil rights and allowing the Federal government to dictate to us.

Concerned about the registered letter he received requiring cars to be removed from around the hanger. As hanger owners we should have the right to park our personal vehicle next to the hanger.

Expressed concern that some hanger constructions have not been well planned and had caused drainage problems and resultant damage on adjacent hangers (including his).

Said he was aware of a private meeting held that was held by the board to discuss these rules contrary to the boards expressed intention to conduct all meetings open to the public. (Chairman Marietta advised that a January 9th meeting where rules were mentioned was open to the public, two other board meetings in February, also open to the public, were to review applications for skydiving businesses at the airport) The five minute time limit is not enough time to express concerns on something as important as this.

You just informed us of a zoning change here at the airport that no one knew anything about. The commissioners didn't do a good job of informing us of that change. Same problem with the county, citizens are kept in the dark.

This meeting was scheduled on a holiday. People who might have come otherwise aren't here because it's a holiday.

Would like to hear from the FAA directly about the requirement for these regulations. Suggested they be invited to a meeting at the airport to answer questions about why they are necessary.

Concerned that these rules dictate what the internal content of private hangers can be. It's an infringement on personal rights.

Hans Meisler: Wants more input into airport development plans and how federal grant funds should be spent. Feels that money planned to be spent on a longer runway would be better spent on improving the existing ramps and parallel taxiway. He was attracted to this airport because of the small field atmosphere and thinks monies should be focused on promoting that atmosphere rather than cater to the occasional business jet that may want to land here. (Chairman Marietta advised that Federal grant money is always designated for a very specific purpose and cannot be redirected by the sponsor. The parallel taxiway, however, is planned and funded for update this next year. Ramp areas close to the hangers are not eligible for federal fund grants, county funds would be required)

Hans asked "What's driving the longer runway?" He feels an improved cross runway would be of more value than an extended runway.

Skip Moreau: Wind storm has blown down a couple hundred feet of airport perimeter fence and it needs to be repaired. It's been down a month or two and it is an eyesore as well as a security risk.

The airport has an electronic gate in storage, ready to be installed. It needs to be put up.

Chairman Marietta clarified James McCallister's concern regarding vehicle parking stating it is OK to park a vehicle outside your hanger but you can not store a vehicle or other object outside of your hanger for extended periods of time.

The board also committed to look in to other concerns that were raised.

In closing, any other comments were solicited . Hans Meisler stated that he, as a user, had reviewed the Rules and Regulations and he considered proposal to be reasonable and something he could sign up to. No other comments were made.

A motion was made, by Len Mino, to put these proposed Rules and Regulations before the County Commissioners with a recommendation to approve and adopt.

The motion was seconded by Greg Tabuteau

The motion was carried unanimously.

The working of the Rules and Regulations, dated January 20, 2012, will be “cleaned up” (strike-outs will be removed) and forwarded to the commissioners with the recommendation of the advisory board.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Marietta adjourned the meeting at 8:45am.

Minutes submitted by: Jim Woolworth