

**AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**Fremont County Airport**  
**3/02/2016**  
**7:00 am**

Members Present: John Marietta, Chairman; Jack Slagle; Tom Schilf ; Bruce Claremont;

Members Absent: Rich LeDoux; Leonard Mino; Jim Woolworth

Other Officials Present: County Commissioner, Ed Norden; County Manager, George Sugars; Airport Manager, Richard Baker; Airport Assistant Manager, Wes Brandt

Others Present: Mat Clark; Gail Claremont; Skip Moreau

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Chairman John Marietta. Everyone was welcomed.

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of the 12-02-2015 Advisory Board meeting minutes will be deferred to the next scheduled Advisory Board meeting.

**Commissioners' Report by Ed Norden**

- Commissioner Norden announced that ATT will be placing a new cell tower on the field. The tower will be approximately 10 ft south of the existing cell tower location and will rise to 75' AGL. The new tower is a \$300,000 project and has been approved by the FAA. Following tower completion, the airport beacon will be relocated atop of it. Lease revenue for the land on which the tower is erected will continue at \$515/mo.
- Bids are being received and a contract will be let in the next week to complete foundation repair work on Hangar #4.

**Airport Manager's Report by Richard Baker**

- Mr. Baker announced that final details of a "thru the fence agreement" are being negotiated between attorneys for Jim Cole (the requester) and Fremont County. The agreement is the result of a property deed easement to the airport established 50 years ago with the previous property owner (Bill Holt). The FAA has requested and received a copy of the County's proposed agreement. The agreement will require that the requester establish a secure perimeter around his property as well as a secure entrance gate to airport property. The requester had taken premature action to remove a portion of fence for the gate. As a result that portion of perimeter fence is unsecure. The board stated that, if the agreement is not settled and the "thru the fence" site is not secure by the next board meeting in June, the requester would be required to close the access site and make it secure at his expense. A question was asked "Who is responsible for a tie-in taxiway from the "thru the fence" site to the existing airport taxiway?" It was stated that any improvements required as a result of the agreement , such as a taxiway, would be at the requester's expense, subject to Advisory Board approval.
- Federal funding for a ramp maintenance project this year is expected to be approved within the next 30 days. The project will refurbish some areas of the ramp and replace others with new asphalt. The \$500,000 project will draw from ACIP funds with work expected to start in July.
- Fremont County Airport continues to support the sustainability project, an FAA project studying the financial viability of airports throughout the nation.
- The State Aeronautics Board has announced that their available funding levels for state airports will be capped at \$150,000 for the next 4 to 5 years due to reduced tax revenue from fuel sales.
- Skip Moreau has placed a request to rent the old terminal building (Bldg #10). Skip plans to use the building as office space and for parachute repair. The public restrooms in the building would still be accessible thru the north door on the building independent from the space to be rented.
- DOSS Aviation will know in the next 60 days whether their contract is renewed or not. If the contract is not renewed it will have a large negative economic impact on Pueblo Airport and it will adversely affect the traffic count at Fremont County Airport.
- A copy of the contract from the State Division of Wildland Fire to keep their Bell 206 Helicopter stationed at the Airport has been received. The contract runs from April 25 to September. The helicopter will be

stationed here initially but is subject to being moved as fire conditions nationwide dictate. Discussions are on-going with the state concerning their interest in constructing a modular next to Hangar #4 with a parking lot for their wildfire operations. No agreement has yet been reached but the state would like the County to fund the investment and recoup thru lease. The county will require long-term commitment to proceed.

#### **Fremont Economic Development Committee Report**

- Chairman Marietta reported that there is a proposed industrial park planned to go between the airport and the Florence High School at some point in the distant future. Chairman Marietta communicated with the director of FEDC, Rod Brown, to make him aware of the Airport Overlay Zone and its requirements. Any specific development plans are not yet known but the committee is aware of the overlay zone and its restrictions on construction in the area.

### ***Standing Committee Reports***

#### **Safety Report**

- No Report

#### **Security Report**

- No Report

#### **Development Report**

- Jack Slagle suggested steps to take, in sequence, to determine if UAV testing operations could be considered at Fremont County Airport.
  - Contact the FAA to discuss feasibility of UAV test operations from Fremont County Airport and any airspace requirements and operational restrictions for such testing.
  - Assuming the FAA declares UAV test operations from Fremont County are feasible, contact UAV Development Contractors to extend proposals for test operations from Fremont County Airport.
  - Contact the Army Aviation Company at Fort Carson to determine their interest in conducting military UAV test operations within R-2601 with contractors launching and recovering from Fremont County Airport. Discuss the need for an established corridor between the two locations.
- Revenue potential from UAV operations at the field would be primarily from leasing support equipment and hangar space to UAV contractors. UAV chase plane revenue could also be a possibility.

#### **Finance Report**

- No report. Still awaiting year-end financial report for last year.

#### **Operating Procedures**

- Revision #1 to Airport Rules and Regulations was approved by the County Commissioners. This revision defined airport signage requirements.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Airshow**

- The County will not be sponsoring an airshow for 2016. The next planned Airshow at Fremont County is planned for 2017. The airport will support, instead, any planned 2016 EAA fly-in at the airport or any requested fly-over for the Pioneer Days Parade.

##### **Parachute Landing Zones**

- All three parachute landing zones are now leased for the coming year. Mat has leased the northern zone, Skip and Jason have leased the two southern zones.

**New Business**

None

There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 am.

Minutes submitted by Jim Woolworth