

**Minutes of Fairhope Airport Authority**  
**April 11, 2023**

The Fairhope Airport Authority met April 11, 2023 at 5:00PM in the City Hall Council Chambers at 161 N Section Street.

Present: Chip Groner, Chairman, Jack Burrell, Pel Henry, Don Lagarde, Don Ward and Will Bruce. Amy Pearson was absent. Also present was Josh Myrick, Attorney. Cynthia A Boothe took the Minutes.

The Minutes of the March 14, 2023 regular meeting were considered and approved with a motion by Jack Burrell, second by Will Bruce and unanimously passed.

**Continental Aerospace Report:** Nick VanHouten reported that they have been very busy, and things are going well with good fuel sales.

**Airport Manger's Operations Report:** Dave Friedel stated that there is an upcoming Special Ops Command Exercises coming up and the advance personnel will be arriving at Gulfport and Mobile the end of April through the beginning of May with an exercise beginning on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. Fairhope will not be involved with that exercise and are considered an alternate site. He will be meeting with the planners of the exercises to see what can be expected. There will be another advance team that will be arriving in September for an October 5<sup>th</sup> to Nov 17<sup>th</sup> exercise that will involve the Fairhope Airport. He will report back at the next meeting with more details after his meeting with planners.

Dave reported that he had picked up the Virtower equipment and will work with Kyle on getting it installed with the help of a lift at the location chosen. He will then meet with the company officials to get the equipment online and learn the different reports that can be generated.

Dave stated that the back-up generator has been repaired and seems to be working well now.

Dave said he had spoken to AO Electric about the ramp lighting project and got a quote of \$18,000.00. He will speak with Amy about budgeting.

Dave stated that he had received the Operating Certificate from the FAA inspection and will post it behind the counter at the FBO.

Dave reported that the Hansen Group had received approval from the FAA to install a model of a P-51 to use as a wind vane.

**Engineer's Report:** Jordan Stringfellow

Terminal Building Update:

Jordan went over the Floor Plan revisions stating that she has tried to make sure that the FAA will not have any questions about the layout. She is hoping to have everything ready for the project bid to go out by May 1<sup>st</sup> and bid opening on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Jordan stated that she needed an approval for the Engineering Proposal for Construction Services. Pel Henry made a motion to approve the Proposal, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed.

Runway Project Update: Chip Groner stated that he had talked with Frank Farmer of the FAA, and he suggested that the Authority should probably make sure that they would be using the same engineering firm for the design as they will be using for the construction phase of the project. The contract for Volkert will be up in nine months and Chip asked the Authority if they felt they should reach out to engineering firms now in case a new firm would be taking over for the construction phase.

Josh Myrick stated that Volkert is under contract until February 2024. Prior to expiration the Authority usually prepares and sends out an RFP to engineering firms. The Master Agreement with Volkert does not have any penalties or cancellation fees. If the Authority is inclined to request early termination, the Authority would have to first meet with Volkert to discuss any issues they feel are leading them to ask for termination and to compensate Volkert for any work that has been done to date. When looking at RFP's the FAA guidelines state that you must first look at qualifications, not price. Any price discussions would take place after the best qualified firm is selected.

Jordan stated that if another firm is selected that they should be able to oversee the construction phase from her design as it would be very similar to the design from any other engineering firm. She also said that ALDOT had recommended they move forward with the design so that the plan would be shovel ready for approval next year, but there is still a small chance it could be approved this summer only if the plans are ready and bid out by July. But if the contract is terminated now that won't happen.

After a group discussion it was decided that Volkert would continue the design process. A motion was made by Don Ward to go ahead with an RFP for engineering firms, second by Don Lagarde and unanimously passed.

Hangar Updates: Jordan went over the Updated layout plan for the East Side showing the addition of lot P-16B, updated fuel farm layout and the shifting of the Terminal Building a little to the west.

Sarah Hicks of Partner Architecture stated that the fuel farm for the RDI Hangar has been shifted a little to the North to make it more accessible.

A motion was made by Pel Henry to approve the new layout plan, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed.

Jordan went over the new lot P-16B layout that Jacob Cunningham has requested, and it is almost ready for Josh Myrick to do a lease agreement.

Jordan went over the preliminary proposal for lot P-42 including its location on the Southwest Side layout plan of the Airport followed by Scott Peters representing Golo Adventures who went into more detail about their proposed plan for lot.

A group discussion followed including the Southwest layout plan, lot P-42 and the proposed lease, and the state of the construction road and the repairs needed to make it usable for traffic and construction on the Southwest Side.

A motion was made by Will Bruce to approve the proposal for lot P-42 pending review by Josh Myrick for any material changes that may be requested for the lease, second by Jack Burrell and unanimously passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** No Report.

**Legal Report:** No Report.

**Board Discussion/Approval Requests:** Chip Groner stated that the annual DBT AWOS service contract is up for renewal at a cost of \$6,490.00. Chip and Dave have not been able to get satisfactory service for repairs so Chip will be calling the company president to see what can be done about the level of service the Airport has been receiving. Jack Burrell made a motion to give the Chairman, Chip Groner, the authority to sign the renewal at his discretion, second by Pell Henry and unanimously passed.

**Other Business:** Don Lagarde stated that with the new insurance deductibles that are on the renewal recently signed that the Airport Authority has about

\$450,000.00 in deductible exposure so the Authority's insurance agent, Coley Boone, has suggested a stop-gap plan that would pick up most of the deductibles if needed. The cost of the policy would be about \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00. After a brief discussion, it was decided to table this for further discussion.

**Comments from the General Public:** Vince Boothe said that when he was an Authority member that when the lease agreement was approved for the Hansen Group that they were required to put in a construction grade road only until the Authority developed that property and if they were not required to have a Phase I Environmental study then that was a mistake. He also stated that the Authority needs to find out what percent Volkert will charge for Construction Services fees.

Will Bruce stated that he wanted to keep The Civil Air Patrol in mind as they are still looking for a place to hold meetings. Chip Groner stated that there may be some space available at the end of one of the T-Hangars but since there are still negotiations ongoing with Continental it could be October before that space is available.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business a motion was made by Don Ward to adjourn, second by Jack Burrell and unanimously passed.

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Chip Groner, Chairman

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Submitted by Cynthia A Boothe