

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO

REGULAR MEETING

ACTION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2014

**TIME & PLACE:** The Airport Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, met in Regular Session in full conformity with the law and ordinances of said Board, at the City Commission Chambers, 405 West 4th Street of the City on Wednesday, the 8th day of January, 2014, at 4:30 pm

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** The meeting was called to order by Bobby Middleton, Chairman, and Karen Rieth was introduced as the new acting secretary.

**ATTENDANCE:** Upon calling the roll the following members were reported present:

Bobby Middleton, Chairman  
Dennis Anderson, Vice Chairman  
David Senn, Member  
Chuck Vangelder Member

**Absent:**  
Gerald LaFont, Member

**Also Present:**  
Juan Fuentes, City Manager  
Judy Harris, City Clerk  
Bill Slettom, Community Dev.Dir/Asst City Mgr.  
Steve Spaw, Airport Attendant

QUORUM: There being a quorum present the Board proceeded with the business at hand.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: "Board Member David Senn moved to approve the Agenda."

Seconded by Vice Chairman Dennis Anderson.  
Motion carried unanimously.

OATH OF NEW MEMBER: Chairman Middleton asked Karen Rieth to administer the Oath and new Member Chuck Vangelder was welcomed to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2013: Board Member Senn noted that he was not present for that meeting.

"Vice-Chairman Anderson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 2, 2013 meeting".

Seconded by Chairman Middleton.  
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Hans Townsend, President of the Chamber of Commerce addressed the Board regarding the Chamber's desire to provide a flat screen TV, and computer to show tourism videos of the area, and a courtesy car for use of pilots flying into the airport. The car would be leased from a rental car company, which would carry their own insurance. Local restaurants could be charged a

reasonable fee to keep menus in the car for marketing which would in turn help finance the rental car. Hans Townsend will submit a letter formalizing the intent, so that a written agreement can be drafted.

Larry Mullenax commented on a news report about the need for airport usage for military drones as well as product drones.

**FUEL FARM UPDATE:** Assistant City Manager and Community Development Director Bill Slettom requested to give the fuel farm update due to his need to leave for another meeting.

The fuel farm will be a phased project with Phase I being one Jet A tank plus the infrastructure needed to support that tank, including a card reader, as well as stub outs for a second tank. The reason for a phased project is due to suggestions from the Aviation division to take advantage of changes in their funding cycles.

The project has been advertised in the Albuquerque Journal, The Sierra County Sentinel, the Las Cruces Sun News, the Herald and online in the I-square foot plan room.

Bill Slettom answered questions from Board members, noting that there would be a card reader for both Jet A and Aviation fuel tanks upon completion of the project to allow pilots to self-serve after hours.

**NEW BUSINESS- Hangar Rental Contract:** Member Chuck Vangelder commented on the lack of a hangar for use by transient aircraft, and the waiting list for existing hangar space. Member Vangelder reported that he had looked at all the hangars & noted no planes in them. Member Vangelder expressed concern that more active pilots that could be potential fuel buyers are turned away because there are no available hangars while some existing hangars are used for storage of furniture or

planes that are out of commission.

Chairman Middleton commented that he and Member Vangelder had met with the City Manager recently regarding concerns that a complaint was received from a member of Spaceport who wants to move here but has been unable to secure a hanger.

Member Vangelder reported speaking to members of the Mohave flying club that were being relocated to New Mexico to work at the Spaceport and are being turned down for hangar space in T or C, which may prompt them to go to Las Cruces instead.

Answering an inquiry from Chairman Middleton, staff reported 10 people currently on the waiting list. Several of those are unable to use the current runway due to size limits and some have hangars, but have asked to be put on the list for newer or larger hangars that may come available.

City Clerk, Judy Harris reported several complaints from current hangar leases regarding deferred maintenance issues.

A question was raised on whether T or C's rental fees are comparable to those of Las Cruces or other airports.

Member Vangelder reported that some of the Virgin Galactic aircraft would be larger aircraft that would not be able to land in T or C. They would have to go to Las Cruces.

Steve Spaw approached the podium to report on the maintenance issues, and whether the complaints of doors being difficult to open due to dirt accumulating in the tracks is the responsibility of the City, or the tenant to maintain.

City Manager Juan Fuentes will follow up with Community Development Director Bill Slettom, to make sure he is

aware of the maintenance questions so that arrangements can be made to provide resources to address the issues.

Members of the Board discussed the current hangar situation, and the criteria for renting a hangar from the City.

Chairman Middleton mentioned the clause in the rental agreement that gives the City the right to inspect Hangars with 5 day prior notice, and suggested that such inspections are conducted to determine whether hangars are being used for active aircraft, or just storage purposes.

City Manager Juan Fuentes discussed the possibility of asking staff to follow up with a review of all hangars, and exercise the inspection clause.

Chairman Middleton answered a question from the audience regarding the criteria for renting Hangar space.

Board Members voiced concern that there are not enough hangars to meet demand, and the lack of a transient hangar may keep pilots from landing in T or C vs. Las Cruces.

**AIRPORT FLYING  
ORGANIZATION  
PROPOSAL:**

Presented by Ron Phillips, local pilot. Mr. Phillips would like to see some sort of organization, such as a flying club, or pilot's association formed. The objectives would be to involve more people in aviation and perhaps provide instruction such as flight lessons; joint ownership of aircraft, and perhaps work collaboratively with the schools to create an emersion pilot training for high school students.

Vice-Chairman Dennis Anderson commented that there used to be a local flying club, and Chuck Eastburn has donated minutes and bylaws that maybe could be a useful starting point.

Mr. Phillips also mentioned invited the pilots that are relocating from Mohave to join.

Mr. Phillips commented that he has already spoken with a few people who have expressed interest.

Chairman Middleton expressed excitement at the prospect of a flying club and thanked Mr. Phillips for bringing it to the boards' attention.

Members of the Board reiterated the need for a courtesy car.

**FUEL REPORT:** Presented by Steve Spaw. Information provided for record.

Steve Spaw commented that T or C is not charging many fees that other airports charge, such as landing fees, ramp, Hangar, & call out fees. Las Cruces is charging landing fees and parking fees. Chairman Middleton noted that the landing fees were for commercial aircraft, only.

City Manager Juan Fuentes requested that the Board review the rate sheet from Las Cruces airport at the next meeting and come up with recommendations for the City Council regarding additional revenue possibilities at the airport.

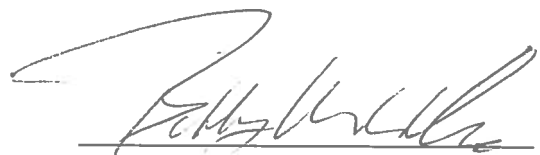
Board Members Discussed the fuel truck rental rate being comparable to what the payment on a new truck would be, and maybe the City should look into investing in their own truck, rather than renting.

Member Chuck Vangelder commented on fuel additive vs. premixed fuel.

MARKETING REPORT: Steve Spaw reported that he has spoken with both T or C and Elephant Butte Chamber of Commerces to inquire about getting more publicity at the airport. Both Chambers have had representatives come out to the airport as previously reported by Hans Townsend, President of the T or C Chamber of Commerce. Kim Skinner from the Sierra County Tourism board has also been to the airport. The request for marketing materials at the airport has been well received. Steve Spaw also reported speaking with Cannon AFB and Kirkland AFB regarding special ops touch and goes and training flights, and how the T or C airport might better serve their needs.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bobby Middleton moved to adjourn the meeting, and Member David Senn seconded. Chairman middleton then adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST: PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of  
April, 201~~2~~<sup>4</sup>, on a motion made by  
David Senn and Seconded by  
Chuck Vangelder, and carried.

  
Bobby Middleton, Chairman