

Minutes of Meeting
Airport & Airport Advisory Board Update
January 25, 2021
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 were Airport Advisory Board Chair Joan Genter, Airport Advisory Board Member Greg Gfeller and Hagadone Corporation Aviation Director Keith Lang. Commissioner Brooks was present via teleconference.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Review of 1/13/2021 Airport Advisory Board Minutes (Discussion)

Airport Advisory Board Chair Joan Genter announced that she would be stepping down as Chair, to be replaced by Advisory Board Member Greg Gfeller. She said she would become the Vice Chair.

Mr. Gfeller stated that there was an error in their meeting's minutes that would be corrected and confirmed that his nomination for Chair had been seconded by Tim Komberec. He said he was looking forward to working with the BOCC, Airport staff, the pilot community and the public.

Airport Director Steven Kjergaard reported that he had met with T-O Engineers and Hagadone Corporation Aviation Director Keith Lang on December 28, 2020 to discuss the decoupling project, associated funding issues and to prepare for the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) meeting last week. He said that they had developed a survey for the FBOs (Fixed Base Operators) and those major tenants that might need more than 7,400 feet of runway space. He explained that, if they could get more than 500 operations per year that required more than 7,400 feet, the FAA would pay for an extension of the runway. He explained the FAA process, which he estimated would take seven to ten years. He said it would cost between \$3 million and \$5 million to extend Runway 624.

Mr. Kjergaard stated that they had encountered some issues with the north side taxiway and a meeting was scheduled for later today to discuss them with the contractor.

Mr. Kjergaard said that the design work for the decoupling had been completed and sent to the FAA for review. He cautioned that this grant might change, if the FAA shifted their project funding. He stated that the FAA wanted to see the safety issue addressed by the decoupling of 24 and 20.

Mr. Kjergaard announced that the perimeter fence was mostly installed. He said that they had added a motorized gate for about \$45,000, which the FAA had approved and would fund. He noted that they would have to modify T-O Engineers' contract, because the FAA had required a redrawing of the entire plan set. He said the change order would be about \$10,000 and would be submitted to the Board within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Kjergaard reported that the Ramsey Road land release, containing the remainder of the 50 acres south of Airport shops, had been submitted. He explained it would be sold to create a funding mechanism for their new Administrative/SRE (Snow Removal Equipment) Building, among other things.

Mr. Kjergaard said that only one bid had been submitted for the CMGC (Construction Manager General Contractor) for the Snow Removal Equipment building but he was satisfied with the price and the bidder's qualifications. He stated that a Notice of Award would be posted this week or next week. He reminded the Commissioners that they were separating the project into two contracts, due to the FAA being willing to fund the SRE but not the Administrative part of the building.

Mr. Kjergaard noted that the Airport had some DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) issues he planned to discuss with Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze within the next couple of weeks.

In response to a question from Chairman Fillios, Mr. Kjergaard confirmed that Runway 624 was 7,400 feet at present. He explained that the Masterplan included two extension opportunities of 600 feet each, with the ultimate length goal of 8,600 feet.

Cost of Utility Installation for New Airport Facility (Action)

Mr. Kjergaard said this item concerned north side hangar development. He explained that the leases stated that the leaseholder would be responsible for extending utilities, including sewer, water and roadway infrastructure. He pointed out that if the extensions were done piecemeal, there would be up to nine different connection points created which could cause a weak point in the system. He suggested that the County pay to install the utility and road infrastructure and then the Airport could charge tenants based on the linear foot of their leases to recover the expense. He estimated the cost would be about \$90,000 per lot.

Mr. Kjergaard stated he had spoken to Finance Director Dena Darrow and had been told that most of the required funding was already available in their account. He said this would solve the multiple connection problem, at an estimated cost of about \$900,000, which would probably be paid back in full within two years. He added that he would like to start the project this spring, but would like Board direction before proceeding.

All three Commissioners voiced their support for his suggestion.

1/21/21 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and Aircraft Owners Pilots Association (AOPA) Meeting Review (Discussion)

Mr. Kjergaard remarked that this had not been a County-led meeting, so he and Commissioner Bill Brooks did not say much. He stated that there had been a newspaper article published Saturday about the meeting and there had been some discontent expressed from some participants regarding its tone. He expressed his concern that the incident might damage the Airport's relationship with the FAA. He added that he would be meeting with the FAA on Wednesday to find out what would happen.

Mr. Kjergaard stressed that this had not been a County meeting and did not fall under the same rules as County meetings. He stated that CDA Press Reporter Madison Hardy had been introduced at the beginning, so all attendees should have been aware of her presence.

Mr. Kjergaard said that, in his opinion, it had been a very good, very positive meeting, although that was not how it was presented in the article.

Commissioner Brooks confirmed that he had said nothing during the meeting and said that Mr. Kjergaard had only asked a couple of very simple questions. He said that the FAA made it very clear that they believed that, just because someone was a pilot, it did not mean they understood Airport geometry. He commented that he felt the FAA was trying to be fair and helpful to all sides, but in the end that they had to refuse Mr. Lang's proposals. He stated that he wanted to be sure the FAA knew that Kootenai County was grateful for their assistance and had not tried to expose them in a poor light to the press.

Mr. Kjergaard stated that the FAA was committed to provide somewhere between \$8 million and \$12 million to the County to complete projects over the next five years. He indicated that the FAA's support of decoupling the runways seemed very firm. He added that they will not fund anything that does not meet their standards.

In response to a question from Chairman Fillios, Mr. Kjergaard confirmed that the FAA had allowed the Airport to move the decoupling back to 2025, in response to the pilot community's comments.

- 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. Lang said that he did not see why the newspaper article had created any trouble. He stated that Ms. Hardy had been introduced to everyone in the teleconference meeting, so they should have been aware that she was a member of the press.

Mr. Gfeller remarked that, thanks to BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones, they would be reviewing Idaho Public Records and Open Meeting laws before their next meeting.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
