

October 20, 2009
Noon
Newport, Oregon

The City of Newport Airport Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. Present were Jim Hawley, Jim Churchwell, Mark Watkins, and Richard Larson.

Staff present was Dennis Reno, Airport Director, Jim Voetberg, City Manager, Penelope McCarthy, City Attorney, and Peggy Hawker, City Recorder.

Audience present was Mark Fisher, Richard Beemer, Greg Stanton, Mark McConnell, Walter Sherman, Jeff Bertuleit, Steve Schuster, and Sheldon Hunt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2009

MOTION was made by Churchwell, seconded by Hawley to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2009. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

DISCUSSION OF AIRPORT BUSINESS PLAN

A discussion ensued regarding the airport business plan. Questions included ownership of the fuel farm, the exclusion of hangar rent from the plan, the idea of combining the airport and FBO funds, and how to resolve the anticipated deficit.

Watkins suggested a volunteer organization to determine how to increase the airport's general aviation business. It was suggested that the city contract for government aviation fuel sales, that additional hangars be constructed, and that other revenue streams be developed. Voetberg noted that this could be an excellent opportunity to encourage public/private partnerships.

Beemer asked about the bank service charges in the business plan. It was noted that these are credit card fees. Watkins asked why 50% of the airport director's salary was allocated to the FBO and 50% to the airport. It was noted that while a formula was not used, both the FBO and airport are losing money.

Hunt noted that the end-of-year balance sheet may be offset by the amount of money coming into the local economy. Voetberg noted that the city has many needs, and it cannot continue to pump \$400,000 - \$500,000 into the airport annually. Hunt noted that there is significant missing information. Voetberg reported that, since July, the city has been collecting information regarding the number of operations, sales, etc.

McConnell reported that there is no marketing money in the budget. Hawley suggested that the Airport Committee ask the pilots for recommendations on increased revenues. Watkins stated that he would take the lead in this project. Larson stated that the airport needs to increase business as much as general aviation, and should examine infrastructure with an eye toward the future.

Watkins suggested that the Chamber of Commerce could help with these efforts. Voetberg noted that the City Council is looking for input from the Airport Committee,

and that he can incorporate recommended changes, or include them as a separate report to Council.

McConnell suggested looking at combining the accounts and show the overall costs of operating the airport.

MOTION was made by Watkins, seconded by Churchwell, to continue working on the business plan; report to the City Council at their next meeting; and have a final business plan for City Council review in January. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This report was postponed until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Voetberg and Reno were thanked for their work on the draft business plan.

Hawley thanked the audience for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 P.M.

Jim Hawley, Chair