

Nov. 14, 2017

2:05 p.m.

Newport, Oregon

The Airport Committee met on the above date in Conference Room A, Newport City Hall.

In attendance were: Committee Members Ken Brown, Jim Shaw, Ralph Busby and Terry Buggenhagen. Also in attendance were: City Manager Spencer Nebel, Airport Director Lance Vanderbeck, Deputy City Recorder Gloria Tucker, City Council Liaison Laura Swanson, Fire Chief Rob Murphy and Public Works Senior Project Manager Jayson Buchholz.

Absent were: Committee Members Susan Reese Painter, Jeff Bertuleit and Mark Watkins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Buggenhagen, seconded by Brown, to approve the minutes of the Oct. 10, 2017 meeting. The motion carried unanimously in a voice vote.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Part 139 Certification Issue

Busby introduced the Part 139 Certification Issue agenda item. He said the item is a discussion and the committee is not coming to a conclusion necessarily. It's to get concerns and opinions out on the table on whether to keep the certification.

Vanderbeck passed out an Airport Certification List that showed nine Oregon cities have Part 139 Certification -- Eugene, Klamath Falls, Medford, Newport, North Bend, Pendleton, Portland, Redmond and Salem.

Buggenhagen said if the airport loses the certification, it would take a lot of trouble to get it back. While commercial flights may not come for some time, if they eventually do, then he said it would take longer to begin the service.

Busby said while the FAA can resend the airport's certification, he doesn't think they would. He said for planes with nine or less passengers the Part 139 is not required. He said if the airport got commercial flights, they wouldn't be bigger than that anyway. He said he does not see any benefit to keeping the certification to users today. He said the money for certification, \$50,000 to \$70,000, may be best used elsewhere. He said while it would not be easy to get the certification back, the airport can get it back. He said it would not be easy to get back, but he thinks it is worth letting the certification go. In any event, he said the airport would keep the ARF station and truck.

Vanderbeck pointed the airport is a class four certified airport, which allows unscheduled aircraft to land at the airport.

Shaw asked if without certification if emergency aircraft are impacted.

Vanderbeck said it would not affect emergency aircraft.

Nebel said the FAA is eager for the airport to surrender the certification and the folks he talked to said the airport could get the certification back in short order. He said he's not sure he believes that, but the official word is the airport can if there was a need. For us to have a need for it, the airport would have to have scheduled aircraft, larger than nine seats.

Vanderbeck said the airport would have to increase the runway length to accommodate larger air carriers.

Nebel said from his perspective the certification is not required at this point and the likelihood of needing it in the future is not huge.

Vanderbeck said he has talked to the other small airports and they all struggle on a daily basis to keep the air service providers there.

Murphy said the certification requires three-fourths of his training budget for the ARF station. He said it's also quite difficult to manage schedules with so many employees sent to trainings. He said without the certification, the city could scale back how many personnel are trained for the airport and reduce the fire department's training costs by two-thirds. He said without the certification, the fire department would keep three firefighters trained for the ARF station, rather than eight.

Brown said the grant used to purchase the ARF truck required the airport keep it for 20 years.

Vanderbeck said the FAA could move the ARF truck but wouldn't because it's too small for use at any other ARF station.

Murphy said he wants to keep the truck at the airport whether the airport keeps the certification or not.

Shaw asked what would be the savings if the certification was surrendered.

Nebel said he would have city staff bring the cost savings to the committee at its next meeting. He said the committee could make a decision on the certification in December or January. He suggested the whole committee be present when it votes on a recommendation to the city council.

Airport Water Infrastructure

Vanderbeck introduced Airport Water Infrastructure agenda item. He said several options could resolve the water flow at the airport, from storage tanks, to ponds, to dry hydrants.

Busby asked if what kind of structures don't need access to increased water flow.

Murphy said any structure would need access or its own fire suppression system.

Busby asked if a Newport and Seal Rock water line connection would improve water flow.

Murphy said the connection does not add much because the height of the airport in relation to each systems water tanks. He said often large industrial complexes supply their own water infrastructure. He recommended the committee think long term on how the airport could supply water for several hangars.

Nebel said water supply for the airport is a priority for its future. He said the best way to meet that need could be to expand the municipal water system or have water storage on site. He suggested Vanderbeck begin a study for the best way to meet the water needs at the airport and how to fund it.

Murphy suggested Vanderbeck figure out what the biggest potential fire flow necessary for the airport in order to gauge what the system needs.

Busby asked if there would be waivers for building hangars in the meantime, while the study is conducted.

Murphy said no.

Nebel said when the city puts together the budget, the costs would be plugged into the budget.

Busby suggested Vanderbeck commit an engineer for the study.

Nebel and Busby discussed the possibility of the Coast Guard sharing the expenses for water retention at the airport.

Busby asked Vanderbeck to bring back a report on the issue in a couple of months.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Vanderbeck gave his operational report included in the Nov. 14 packet.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Buchholz said the bid for the pavilion at the airport came in \$13,000 over budget. He said city staff has not explored value engineering yet, but will begin exploring options.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.