

Meeting Minutes

Okaloosa County Aviation Board

Monday, April 12, 2021

1:00 PM

Board Members in Attendance:

Seat 1	Mr. Dick Russell	Seat 2	BG Robert Buhrow
Seat 3	Mr. Don Harrington	Seat 4	Mr. Chip Cook (Vice)
Seat 6	Lt Gen Gordon Fornell (Chair)	Seat 7	Dr. Richard P. Hallion
Seat 8	Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel		

Board Members Absent:

Seat 5 Lt Gen Mike Wooley

Chair Fornell opened the meeting at 1:01PM

Opened Prayer by Chair Fornell

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chair Fornell

Public Comments – None

Airports Update – Mr. Tracy Stage

- Briefed attached slides.
- Southwest announcement was made on February 25, 2021 into VPS airport with service to four (4) cities initially.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> inaugural flight from Dallas Love field at gate B1 on Southwest Florida One plane.
- Meeting with multiple Southwest employees to make the transition into VPS as smooth as possible.
- VPS acquired Southwest in 32 days, largely due to this Board, County Commissioners, and the Staff at VPS.
- VPS is serving 50 cities direct.
- American Airlines has increased by 2 cities, Delta upped frequency to Atlanta from 5 to 7, United increased frequency to Texas to 8.
- One of the biggest impacts is the Concourse C project. Allegiant funding the entire project, \$11.4 million dollars. Contract at the County for approval, Whitesell-Green contractors.
- Concourse C will house 5 boarding gates, 2 sets of restrooms, 2 TSA check points lanes, restaurants, and concessions.

Tracy Stage introduced Mr. Robert "Chad" Rogers

Presentation Points

*Approved  
April 12, 2021*

- Down to 15 projects currently, mostly at VPS but significant work with the GAs also.
- Destin finished up its taxiway rehab project, \$1 million dollars of what was currently going on
- The large projects in the works are VPS Concourse C, baggage handling system, baggage claim expansion, parking lot expansion, lot B expansion, all projects total \$35million
- Currently working on landslide lobby & ticketing, and air side BHS modifications & expansion currently been working since September timeframe
- Updated photos presented of the terminal expansion, lot B, and trees
- Terminal expansion is going smoothly – the contractor Whitesell Green is performing very well.
  1. They have accelerated the schedule, meaning we will get to the temporary baggage screening machines area in June.
  2. Phase II will include reno existing space mid-June. By November of 2021 project complete
- Bob Sikes Airport Foy Shaw Parkway near completion – end of May
- Highlight the Partnership A&P parking lot NWF Aviation Center of Excellence – 100 space parking and two driveways

#### Questions

Mr. Harrington asked - Are you concerned with running out of parking availability at VPS?

Mr. Stage responds – We identified a parking garage in our master plan, we hope to not need that for some time. Last year we added 350 parking spaces and this will complete an additional 800 spots. I feel very comfortable with the number of spaces for at least 4-5 years, the real issue is rental cars, taxis, and transportation companies.

#### **Mr. Tracy Stage VPS Update Cont.**

- Selection Committee including General Secord to find hangar occupants at Bob Sikes
- Don Davis with Vertex will use the hangar for testing and modifying, \$139,000/annually. Agreement will go to the County April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Commissioner Ketchel, Mr. Stage and Chair Fornell attended the F-15EX unveiling and naming at Eglin AFB replacing the C model.
- Operation VPS Ready Plan five key components have been checked successfully.
- Patrick “Jamie” Milton the Airports Maintenance Supervisor was tasked in getting our airport GBAC accredited and did a fantastic job.

Commissioner Ketchel asks how many on the VPS staff have come down with COVID?

Mr. Stage answers with 1 person.

Commissioner Ketchel thanked Jamie for his work on keeping the Airport clean and that the rest of the county could learn from this.

#### Question

Chair Fornell stated that this accomplishment of receiving the GBAC accreditation should be written up and acknowledged with the media.

Commissioner Ketchel also mentions including the spray we use that has a coating for 90 days once sprayed.

- Airports Updated Team Photo was shared on the screen

Chair Fornell thanked Mr. Tracy Stage and looked forward to the future.

Paul Mixon was invited but unable to attend the meeting – Commissioner Ketchel spoke highly in regards to him in his absence.

### **New/Old Business**

Chair Fornell introduced Mr. Jonathan Dunn, owner of Emerald Coast Aviation (ECA), FBO at Bob Sikes

Dunn – Update and Amendment Review on Proposed hangar and lease space – Amendment 7 to FBO Agreement

#### Presentation Points

- Opportunity for Bob Sikes to create skilled jobs with benefits
- Increase Based Aircraft from 35 to 100
- Grass Roots Aviation
- Teach people to fly
- We have filled the hangars and not even begun to dig
- Fuel to the Military

#### Questions

Mr. Cook asked on your new tenants in the hangars what are your percentage of avgas users and kerosene? What is the basic mix you looking at?

Mr. Dunn responds with 70 Avgas 30 Jet Fuel, more general aviation.

Mr. Cook asked are you seeing on the jet users a lot of turbo prop craft, transition into the mid-size private jet? What's the mix on that?

Mr. Dunn responds that it is right across the board.

Mr. Cook asked are you seeing any transition on the aircraft out here toward the G650 craft is that propagating at all?

Mr. Dunn responds that he does not see a lot of that crowd.

Mr. Cook asks what area crowd are we pulling from, Birmingham, Atlanta, Chattanooga, or are we pulling from New York, Denver that crowd?

Mr. Dunn responds its mainly Southeast.

Mr. Tracy Stage stated highlights from Amendment 7

- Two facilities that will get demolished, one from 1974 the other 1968 this is Phase I of Mr. Dunn's proposal
- Phase II is the additional hangars
- 49,000 sq. feet add of hangar space | 15 years to his agreement

Chair Fornell asks about legal review.

Mr. Stage responds the Airport would craft up an agenda item and place on the next available BCC meeting. Try to get on the May agenda.

Chair Fornell asks if anyone has any further questions.

Chair Fornell asks for a motion and recommending to move this forward

RESULT:	Amendment 7 to go on next available BCC Agenda
MOVER:	Dr. Dick Hallion, Seat 7
SECONDER:	Mr. Don Harrington, Seat 3
AYES:	Unanimous
Motion Carried.	

#### **OCAB Business Items**

1. Aviation Legal Support Update – County Attorney, Ms Kerry Parsons
  - Entered into an agreement with Kirsch, Kaplan on legal matters with the airport. They have worked with multiple airports on legal matters in the past.
  - We have two legal matters we are working with them on. Federal Regulatory matters and how it relates to our special projects.

Chair Fornell asked who our contacts are where they were located? Mr. Parsons responded Peter Kirsch is our point of contact, located in Denver, CO.

2. Approval of December 14, 2020 OCAB Meeting Minutes

RESULT:	OCAB Approved the Minutes from December 14, 2020 meeting as presented
MOVER:	Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel, Seat 8
SECONDER:	Dick Russell, Seat 1
AYES:	Unanimous
Motion Carried.	

Chair Fornell asked if the Board was pleased with the June day, time, and location of the next meeting. June 14, 2021 at 1pm Shalimar location. No objections.

### **Board Member Minutes**

Chair Fornell – happy with meeting and everyone efforts

Commissioner Ketchel – Thanked the board for everything, changes that have been made. Wanted to make sure to let everyone know Mr. Tracy Stage received the Destin Chamber award for Business Person of the Month, congratulations.

Mr. Cook – We need to consider updating our regulations

Ms. Parsons – That one of the reasons why we hired the legal counsel Mr. Cook, to look at these outdated regulations.

Mr. Stage – We would love to have you on the team Mr. Cook, 1977 regulations that need to be revamped.

Mr. Russell – we need to make changes, glad to see that it is happening.

### **Public Comments - None**

### **Meeting Adjourned – 2:11**

### **Notes:**

GBAC News Media Coverage

February 18, 2021 | Northwest Florida Daily News

<https://www.nwfdailynews.com/story/news/2021/02/19/destin-fort-walton-beach-airport-achieves-accreditation-being-super-clean/4512213001/>

February 18, 2021 | WKRG

<https://www.wkrg.com/northwest-florida/destin-fort-walton-beach-airport-reaches-gold-standard-for-pandemic-safety/>

APPROVED:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Gordon Fornell Lt. Gen (Ret)

Title: Chairman

Date: 6/14/21

APPROVED:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Tracy Stage, A.A.E.

Title: Airports Director

Date: 5.19.21

\*These minutes are a summation of the meeting.