

The regular monthly meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority was held October 14, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in the Airport Conference Room. Board members present were Steve Williamson, Richard Roehm, Yvonne Jarrett and John McKenna. Eric Hastings was not able to attend the meeting. Also present were Ted Mathis, Airport Director, Brian Sprenger, Assistant Director and Cherie Ferguson, Clerk.

The first agenda item was to review and approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 9, 2004. Richard Roehm moved to accept the minutes as mailed; Yvonne Jarrett seconded the motion and it carried.

The second agenda item was the public comment period. Terry Neal of Budget Rent A Car said that one of the on-airport rental car concessionaires installed computer monitors at the fixed base operators' (FBOs) offices, which he feels gives them an unfair business advantage. Mr. Neal wanted to know if that is within the defined area of operation on the airport and requested clarification.

The Board members agreed that Ted Mathis should have Ed Sedivy review the contracts and give an opinion.

The third agenda item was to consider the request by Valley Bank of Belgrade to transfer their Non-Commercial Hangar Ground Lease for Hangar #63 to Mr. Monte Beck. After the Board ascertained that Jack Bolles didn't want the lease transferred to him, John McKenna moved to approve the request by Mr. Monte Beck. The motion was approved.

The fourth agenda item was to consider a new ten-year Non-Commercial Hangar Ground Lease Agreement for the existing hangar owned by Dale and Marti Miller. Ted Mathis said that their 20-year lease ends on the 31st of October, their payments are current and the hangar is in good shape. Mr. Roehm moved to approve a new 10-year lease for Dale and Marti Miller. The motion was seconded and passed.

In response to a question by Mr. Mathis regarding the Board allowing staff to handle extensions of leases, Mr. Roehm said that he believed it is in the best interest of the Board to have the extensions brought before the Board. The Board members can stay aware of what is going on, plus it allows the public to make comments regarding the extensions. The other Board members concurred.

The fifth agenda item was the report on passenger boardings and flight operations – Brian Sprenger. Mr. Sprenger reported that in September there were 506 air carrier operations, 831 air taxi, 2,489 general aviation (GA) itinerant and 43 military, for a total of 3,869 itinerant operations. Local GA operations were 1,942, for a total of 5,811 tower operations, down 6.82% from September a year ago. There were 145 landings of aircraft over 12,500 pounds, down 3.97% from September 2003. Year-to-date local GA traffic is down 6% while itinerant, including air carrier and air taxi, is up 10%. Year-to-date landings of aircraft over 12,500 lbs. are up nearly 11%.

Mr. Sprenger reported that passenger boardings were 27,379, up 12.7% from September a year ago and year-to-date boardings are up 9.3% compared to the same period in 2003. Mr. Sprenger said that October figures are in the double-digit range as well.

The sixth agenda item was the Director's Report – Ted Mathis. Mr. Mathis reported that he believes that we will be seeing higher air fares due to higher fuel prices, which may impact our tourist traffic.

He also reported that the ramp paving is done and there is just a little finish work to be done. He commended TMC Inc. (the contractors), JTL Group (the pavers) and the engineering staff from Morrison-Maierle, Inc. for the great job they did. He also thanked the FBOs and other commercial operators for their cooperation and patience while the work was being done.

Mr. Mathis said he has a meeting next week with the FAA to work out the details of the cooperative agreement regarding radar here at Gallatin Field.

The Board discussed possible locations within the terminal or on the field where we might be able to display an antique Moth biplane that had been on display in the Helena airport. They want to explore all the possibilities and work something out.

It was agreed to schedule the November meeting on Wednesday the 10th as Thursday the 11th is a holiday.

The self-fueling station was scheduled to open today but Mr. Mathis wasn't sure if it was ready. An Airport Authority furnished port-a-potty will be set up in the area. Steve Williamson said we need to make sure the fueling station is acceptable.

The seventh agenda item was to consider the bills and approve for payment. After review and discussion, Mr. McKenna moved to pay the bills. The motion was seconded and the bills will be paid.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

A brief executive session was held after the regular meeting to discuss potential litigation.



Steven H. Williamson, Chairman