The regular meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority was held April 9, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. in the Airport Conference Room. Board members present were Richard Roehm, John McKenna, Kevin Kelleher, Greg Metzger and Steve Williamson. Also present were Ted Mathis, Airport Director, Brian Sprenger, Assistant Airport Director and Cherie Ferguson, Office Manager.

The first agenda item was to review and approve the minutes of the meeting held April 3, 2009. The minutes were not complete so review and approval was deferred.

The second agenda item was the public comment period. There were no public comments. Chair Richard Roehm said there was an item that was inadvertently left off the agenda but was a result of a public bid opening in the morning.

This item was consideration of bids for Airport Improvement Project-33. Brian Sprenger said this was for all of the site work, the ready lot, and removal of six trees, which were too large to be moved to another spot. In the past when large trees have been moved, they have died.

Mr. Sprenger said there were four bids from Duneman Construction, Knife River, Sime Construction and JEM Contracting. He said apparently the lowest bidder was Duneman Construction at $1,621,824.95 for the entire project. He said the original budget for Phase I and Phase II was $2.6 million and just Phase I was estimated to be $1.7 million. Morrison Maierle’s revised bid for the project was $1.9 million so, if it is a good bid, we will get both Phase I and Phase II for the cost of what we expected for just Phase I.

Steve Williamson said he didn’t know who Duneman Construction is and Mr. Sprenger said Keith Duneman used to work for TMC Inc. and we have used Duneman Construction for several projects in recent years.
Greg Metzger moved to take the bids under advisement and award the total project to the lowest responsible bidder after review by the airport engineer and staff and John McKenna seconded the motion. It was a unanimous decision to approve the motion.

The third agenda item was to consider bills and approve for payment. Ted Mathis said the first item was a check to H & E Equipment, which was for a 45’ articulating man lift. Mr. Mathis said we have been watching for one for a number of years and found this used one at a bargain price. It will work for all our lights except the three big ones in front of the terminal. For those, we contract with the City of Bozeman. Mr. Mathis said we paid $16,500 for this man lift; new they are about $50,000 to $60,000. Mr. Mathis is approved to sign checks for $20,000, and more for equipment. Mr. McKenna moved that we approve the bills and pay them as outlined. Mr. Metzger seconded the motion. Mr. Williamson asked who Van Sant Group is and it is an engineering firm that did the peer review for the architectural project. All board members voted aye and it was a unanimous decision to pay the bills.

There were no other issues to bring before the board.

Chair Roehm introduced Jon Simon who will sit at the board head and assist in insuring that all questions asked are appropriate and within the bounds of privacy to protect each candidate. He said Cherie Ferguson will be taking some notes but it won’t be an extensive word for word review of all the questions and answers.

Mr. Roehm asked everyone to turn off their cell phones. He said the candidates were randomly selected for the order of the interviews. The order is Greg Phillips, John Faulkner, David Ulane and Brian Sprenger. It was a totally random selection. Each interview took roughly an hour, with the interview lasting approximately 50 minutes followed by a 10
minute break. This took place four times for the four candidates. The candidates were not present for each other’s interviews.

Mr. Roehm said that at the end of the fourth interview, the Board would go into Executive Session and discuss what they’ve heard and all the aspects of where they want to go. He said selecting the CEO is probably one of the most important and serious decisions any board could possibly make. They are setting the tone, pattern and direction for the next five years so they are all doing due diligence to make the best selection they can. Mr. Roehm said they recognize that all four candidates are extremely qualified to be the next airport director. The only concern they have is what direction they want the board to go and the airport to go, how they are going to get there and that the person they select is the right one to help them get there. He said there will be three that aren’t selected so whoever isn’t selected shouldn’t view it as it as rejection, it’s just simply compatibility.

Mr. Roehm asked if anyone from the audience or the Board had any questions. There were none so the public interviews began with Greg Phillips. John Faulkner was second, David Ulane was third and Brian Sprenger was fourth. The board asked each candidate what their vision for the airport would be, what this opportunity meant to them, what skills and attributes they bring, what relationship they would want with AAAE, what relationship they have had with domestic and international air carriers and if they had generated new service in their airport. Each candidate was asked how they would work with the airport tenants, the flying public, the local community, general aviation and the airport employees. They were asked what they saw as their role and the role of the Board. They were all asked how they could improve or what kind of additional training they believe would be beneficial. They were also all asked what they would do as the boss that they can’t do now.
They were each asked if they had been involved in land acquisitions. Three of the candidates were asked how they would feel about inheriting a major expansion project, how their airport dealt with the latest TSA security directive, how they would structure their organization and how they would work with Mr. Sprenger if they were chosen as the Airport Director.

Greg Phillips was asked how having in-house law enforcement worked at the Missoula airport; John Faulkner was asked to discuss his suggestions for financing the terminal expansion project; David Ulane was asked what he learned at the St. George airport and to talk about the situation at Aspen and the community’s relationship with the airport. Because Brian Sprenger is local, he was asked what he would do differently than Mr. Mathis has done, what he would do about hiring an assistant and what he would spend most of his time doing. He was also asked what he sees Gallatin Field’s biggest challenges are in the airline world and his personal feelings about the terminal expansion.

All the candidates answered the questions that were asked and all were given an opportunity to give a summary.

Board Chair Richard Roehm said the Board wouldn’t decide immediately. They would retire to Executive Session and discuss any number of aspects of this. They could reject all four candidates. They could ask for additional data on one, two or three candidates or could choose somebody. They would determine that in closed session where they would talk about a number of personnel issues very critical to each candidate. Therefore, Chair Roehm determined that the final discussion and deliberations of the board in choosing the new Airport Director clearly fell under the requirements of section 2-3-203 of the Montana Code. The demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure in this matter. So at this time, they closed the public portion of their meeting and The Board
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went into executive session to discuss various personal and performance issues regarding the candidates at 4:50 p.m.

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Richard R. Roehm, Chair