

Minutes

Eastern Slope Airport Authority - Quarterly Meeting
Thursday Jan. 25th. 2024 via Zoom Meeting

Call to order @ 5:02 p.m.

1 Attendees :

Allison Navia - Airport Manager
Don Thibodeau - Chair
Gene Bergoffen - Treasurer
Ron Briggs - Secretary
Eric Meltzer - Pilot Liason
David Cullinan - Airport Operations Manager

Elbridge Russell - Director
David Sorensen - Director
Steven Steiner - Director
Barry Kallander - Director
Matt O'Brien - MacFarland Johnson

Not Present : Carl Thibodeau, Carmen Lone

a. Assign Officer positions / Board members

Elbridge Russell and Gene Bergoffen nominated and seconded as directors for 3 year terms. 6 in favor none opposed, 2 abstained.

Don Thibodeau nominated and seconded as Chair : 7 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstained.

Carl Thibodeau nominated and seconded as Vice Chair : 8 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Ron Briggs nominated and seconded as Secretary : 7 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstained.

Gene Bergoffen nominated and seconded as Treasurer : 7 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstained.

Eric Meltzer nominated and seconded as Pilot Liason : 7 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstained.

6.b. { taken out of order } Update & Developments : FAA funded projects

Presented by Matt O'Brien :

Environmental assessment & alternatives - Runway needs less safety area than originally proposed. Part of the mowed area is now considered bird habitat. Some inland waterfowl habitat will be affected. The solution to minimize habitat impact is to extend both ends of the runway (14 & 32). Cost also reduced by \$100K +/- . May 1 deadline has been extended to July 1 for new environmental review. The bird habitat area identified behind the transient hangar can have topsoil stripped in winter so birds relocate in spring. MJ has had a preliminary meeting with Army Corps. If the wetlands are put in conservation, a 3rd. party conservator is required. The solar project could possibly pay an in-lieu fee in return for building the first section of the access road. Northern Borders is issuing a " notice of funding opportunities ". If tied to the solar project, NB match would be provided by the solar project. BIL money is also available, but is a separate application. An environmental public hearing / meeting required can be at planning board or a site walk. We are seeking a Finding of No Significant Impact by May. Bidding for Taxiway & Runway to be simultaneous to reduce cost. 7 funding sources for project make it complicated.

Data collection, final design & permitting phases are not funded up front but are reimbursable at a later date (09/2024). A short term loan from bank would tide us over till reimbursement.

The \$300K contract with MJ is needed by the end of Feb. 2024 to meet work timelines. Full invoice payment by end of June. FAA grant money in September. (3 month bridge loan needed). A letter of need is required by MEDOT to front their share.

2.a. Approval of Dec. 21, 2023 Exec. committee minutes : Moved by Don, 2nd. by Eric; 7 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstained.

3.a. Public participation - none

4. Committee reports - none

5. Finances :

Allison met with Katie Haley; review in progress. Audit is also progressing; the cost went up. Year net was \$40K +/- . No red flags. The Fryeburg budget request for this year is \$20K. Don noted that the Town of Fryeburg collects about \$13K in taxes from properties on the airport without any costs.

6. New Business :

a. Ron made a motion to affirm the actions taken by the Executive Committee since the last Board meeting; Don seconded; 8 in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

b. See above

c. Suggestions for the report are welcome.

d. Allison was asked if she spoke with Katie about the ESAA lease extension. It is not up this year; when negotiated it should be for 5 to 7 years. The Maine Municipal Association does not support eliminating the Airplane excise tax. Some towns have said that if it goes away they will replace it with a personal property tax at a higher rate.

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7. Facilities & Operations : Dave Cullinan sent report to members. Canadian helicopter coming Feb 10-20. \$1,000.00 donation received from Kendra F. Stanley of California.
8. Old Business :
 - a. Hangar roof repairs - Katie will look at the lease; town may own the building. If so, town may pay for repairs in 2024. If town owns building and doesn't pay for repairs they should give it to the airport, or sell it.
 - b. Lyman Drive reconstruction : Katie is not interested in pursuing grant money for this project. The possibility of closing Clay Pond was not well received by Katie. the town would do phased construction.
 - c. Solar project - Land lease will be in Town of Fryeburg & ESAA names and is progressing. ESAA is not participating in payments for legal review of the lease.
 - d. 1. covered in 6.a. 2. IFW sent a signed copy of the MOU but with undesirable content. Allison returned it to them with amendments; waiting for further review & comment.
9. Items for next agenda : Cash flow discussion; MJ design contract; bank loan

ADJOURNED @ 18:59