

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING**

FRANKLIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX

MAY 9, 2012

4:00 PM

MINUTES

Commissioners: Pinki Jackel – Chairman, Bevin Putnal – Vice Chairman, Noah Lockley, Joseph Parrish, (Cheryl Sanders attending by phone)

Others Present: Alan Pierce – Director of Administrative Services, Michael Shuler – County Attorney, Michael Morón – Deputy Clerk/Board Secretary

Call to Order (4:02 PM)

Chairman Jackel called the Meeting to order.

Chairman Jackel explained that the reason for the emergency meeting is to discuss the counter offer to the FBO applicant, Fly High. She asked Mr. Pierce to update the Board on the current status of the Airport.

Mr. Pierce stated that the two most important issues at the Airport at this time are fuel and security. He stated the current security measures that are in place.

Chairman Jackel and Mr. Pierce verified that the County isn't under any violation from the FAA regarding security.

Mr. Pierce discussed the status of the Fuel Farm, including installing the credit card machine and installing a phone line at the location. He stated that there is quite a distance from the pump to the location to install the phone line.

Mr. Pierce stated that he had inspected it with the building official and there was no willful damage to the building but some renovation work is needed due to years of use, which can be done by inmates.

Commissioner Putnal stated that the building does need to be updated. He stated that every day the County is losing business at the Airport.

Commissioner Sanders commented on the current situation and the importance of getting the Airport in service as soon as possible.

Mr. Pierce discussed the issues with the T-Hangars, which is the most complicated matter at the Airport at this time and he also discussed the rentals.

Chairman Jackel offered two options in order to proceed either discuss the current status of the contract with the FBO or discuss how the County can maintain the fuel truck and the pumping of the fuel.

The Board agreed that the fuel issue was more important to allow the Airport to continue operations.

Ted Mosteller stated that the fuel farm is ready for use. He stated that about 80,000 lbs of fuel should be ordered and there is still a need for someone to pump the fuel and trucks to distribute the fuel.

The Board, Attorney Shuler and Mr. Mosteller discussed the order in which the Board should proceed and also the new proposal for the FBO.

Arthur 'Perky' White, of the Port St. Joe area, stated that he would be interested in the FBO contract as a long term plan and is willing to work with the County to immediately start pumping fuel. He stated that he is also willing to work with James Lawrence, who submitted a proposal for the FBO.

The Board discussed Mr. White's proposal and all agreed that pumping fuel is the number one priority.

Chuck Marks, of the Airport Advisory Committee, stated that since Fly High is willing to act as an independent contractor the Board should give him an opportunity to discuss this matter.

Commissioner Sanders commented on Fly High's proposal as an independent contractor.

Commissioner Lockley stated that there are a lot of people depending on the Airport. He was disappointed in the back and forth negotiations with Fly High.

Chairman Jackel stated that the proposal for Fly High to serve as an interim contractor is pretty lengthy and very expensive.

Attorney Shuler agreed with Chairman Jackel's summarization and stated some of the stipulations of Fly High being an independent contractor for the Airport.

Commissioner Putnal and Attorney Shuler discussed Fly High's interest in the FBO.

Commissioner Lockley commented on the economic problems the closing of the Airport is causing.

Attorney Shuler discussed the available options with the Board. He stated that the Board has the option of negotiating with the second bidder or rejecting all bids and moving into an interim process.

Commissioner Parrish stated that the Board should move forward and negotiate with the second bidder, James Lawrence.

Commissioner Sanders didn't agree with moving on to the next FBO responder. She stated that she is concerned with getting fuel at the Airport.

Commissioner Parrish stated that Mr. Lawrence said he would sign the contract as it was presented to Fly High.

Chairman Jackel didn't agree with negotiating with Mr. Lawrence because he hasn't even signed the Hangar lease. She said he has no experience running an FBO and has concerns with

his record. She expressed her concerns with getting fuel pumped as soon as possible and doesn't think the process was made easy for Fly High. She said she was disappointed in the process of the negotiations.

Commissioner Lockley stated that Fly High caused a lot of the issues with the negotiations. Commissioner Putnal and Mr. Mosteller discussed the earliest that fuel would be available if someone is hired to pump the fuel.

Commissioner Putnal stated that he would rather have someone pumping fuel now and negotiate a lease at a later time.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Mosteller discussed his availability to assist any plane owners or pilots who would need assistance.

The Board discussed the possibility of having a County employee to assist Mr. Mosteller with pumping gas at the Airport.

Commissioner Lockley asked Mr. White to discuss what he is willing to do on an interim basis, especially with pumping fuel at the Airport.

Motion by Parrish, seconded by Lockley, to reject Fly High as the FBO and begin negotiations with Grace Industries (Mr. James Lawrence) who was the second responder to the FBO; Motion failed 2-3, Jackel, Putnal, and Sanders opposed.

Mr. Pierce and the Board discussed funding sources for fuel purchases. Commissioner Sanders suggested using the unanticipated funds that were discussed recently.

The Board, Mr. Mosteller, and Mr. Pierce discussed the upfront cost to begin operations including fuel purchase, leasing of fuel trucks, and other items.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to have Ted Mosteller to arrange fuel purchase and the leasing of two trucks for pumping services and to engage Mr. Arthur 'Perky' White to assist with pumping gas on an interim basis; Motion carried 5-0.

The Board and Mr. Pierce discussed negotiation options in order to move forward.

Attorney Shuler clarified that these employees will be considered as temporary employees.

The Board discussed possible reasons why negotiations have stalled.

Mr. Pierce stated that the Airport Advisory Committee recommended Fly High and wanted to exhaust all negotiations with them before moving forward.

Motion by Sanders, seconded by Putnal, to direct Attorney Shuler and Chairman Jackel to negotiate with Fly High for the FBO contract and if an agreement cannot be reached then

negotiate with the second FBO proposal submitted, which is Grace Industries; Motion carried 3-2, Parrish, Lockley opposed.

Commissioner Sanders and Mr. Mosteller discussed notifications for pilots to let them know that fuel is available at the Airport.

Chairman Jackel and Attorney Shuler discussed how the County will move forward with negotiations with fly High.

David Winsol, who has an airplane at the Airport, expressed his concerns with security at the Airport. He stated that security is just as important as the fuel issue.

Mr. Mosteller explained that he has changed all locks and combinations.

Mr. Pierce explained that the gates are now locked and the breaks in the fence are far out and not very accessible by the public.

Commissioner Lockley suggested contacting the Sheriff's Department concerning this issue and asking them to patrol the Airport at night.

Anita Grove discussed the importance of a full FBO service at the Airport, including the availability of rental cars.

Adjourn (5:12 PM)

There being no further business, Chairman Jackel adjourned the Meeting.

Cheryl Sanders, Chairman – FCBOCC

Attest:

Marcia M. Johnson, Clerk of Courts