

**TITUSVILLE – COCOA AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

A Special Board Meeting of the Titusville - Cocoa Airport Authority was held on August April 5, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. at the Titusville - Cocoa Airport Authority Office at 355 Golden Knights Boulevard, Titusville, FL. The following members were present: Mr. Jerry Sansom, Chairman; Dr. David L. Hosley, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Patricia Patch, Treasurer; Ms. Veronica Clifford, Secretary; Mr. Jay Stalrit; Mr. Harry Carswell; Mr. Michael D. Powell, C.M., ACE, Executive Director; Mr. Timothy Pickles, Esq., Airport Attorney. Dr. Wasim Niazi was absent.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Sansom called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Sansom asked if there were any changes or additions to the Agenda. Seeing none Mr. Sansom called for a motion to approve. Ms. Patch made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Stalrit seconded. There were no objections. Motion passed.

**Appearances – None****Presentations – None****Consent Agenda – None****Old Business – None****New Business****Item A – Discussion and Consideration of Two Contracts for Continued Contracted Air Traffic Control Tower Services at Space Coast Regional Airport**

Mr. Powell gave an overview of the item stating that the FAA had determined that they would phase out their contract tower program, and that the tower at Space Coast Regional Airport was in the first phase of towers slated to be closed on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Powell stated that the Airport Authority and other airports were trying to find a solution so there was no lapse in service. Mr. Powell stated that Staff had reached out to state lawmakers, but it appeared that at this point there was no alternative but to have the Airport Authority pay for it themselves. Mr. Powell added that the tower and all of the equipment were owned by the Airport Authority, and all that was needed was to contract for personnel services. Mr. Powell stated that if the Board made a decision today the tower would stay open with uninterrupted service. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom stated that the Board would need to make the decision of whether or not to keep the tower open and fund it, in addition to deciding whether to sign the one month

extension contract with the FAA and reimburse them for services or to contract directly with RVA on a month-to-month basis with thirty day notice if the Airport Authority should choose to release them. Discussion continued.

Mr. Pickles stated that right now the Airport Authority was tethered to the FAA and if the Board should choose to agree to the direct RVA contract that tether would be cut. Mr. Pickles added that if the Board were to choose to go through the FAA the Airport Authority would still be tied to them if they should decide to fund the contract tower program again. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom stated that operating expenses for the tower would be around \$58,000 per month. Mr. Powell stated that Staff wanted to keep everything status quo, but if there was an issue with the funding the Airport Authority would have to think about reducing the hours of operation. Mr. Powell also stated that he was hoping to get some relief from the State or maybe even some resolve with the FAA. Mr. Sansom stated that there was no cost difference between the two contract options. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom recommended that the Airport Authority agree to the direct contract with RVA, with the initial agreement being for 60 days and then reviewing the contract every month at the Board meetings and taking a vote on whether or not they should keep the contract. Mr. Powell added that the Airport Authority could reduce hours of operation, charge landing fees and raise fuel flowage fees, if needed. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom turned the floor over to Nick Mayhew from Bristow Academy at Space Coast Regional Airport. Mr. Mayhew stated that in order for Bristow to keep their European contracts they were required to have a control tower. Mr. Mayhew added that if the tower closed they would have to either get creative or relocate. Discussion continued.

Mr. Carswell made a motion to keep the tower open. Dr. Hosley seconded. Mr. Sansom called the question. There were no objections. Motion passed.

Mr. Carswell made a motion to accept the direct to RVA contract. Ms. Patch seconded. Discussion continued.

Mr. Carswell added to his motion that the initial contract be for sixty days and then come up for vote on a monthly basis at the Regular Board meetings. Discussion continued.

Mr. Stalrit asked if the Board was specifying whether or not the Airport Authority was providing funding for the first sixty days. Mr. Carswell added to the motion that the Airport Authority would only pay for the first sixty days and discuss the funding every month thereafter. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom called the question. All voted aye. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion continued.

## **Item B – Discussion and Approval of Space Florida Support**

Mr. Sansom reported that the Airport Authority had received a letter from Space Florida which stated that they were offering to pay for 50% of the Spaceport Licensing cost, which worked out to be \$275,000. Mr. Sansom called for a motion to accept the Space Florida offer.

Dr. Hosley made a motion to accept the offer. Mr. Carswell seconded. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom called the question. There were no objections. Motion passed.

Mr. Sansom asked Mr. Powell to review options for Tower funding and present his findings to the Board at the next Regular meeting. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom announced that there would be a community meeting regarding the control tower this afternoon at the City of Titusville Chamber. Mr. Sansom stated that he would like Airport Authority Board members to attend that meeting if possible. Discussion continued.

Mr. Sansom stated that Airport Authority Staff had received a letter from NASA regarding the Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF), and that they had stated that they wanted someone to operate the SLF, but under certain conditions; In particular all the costs would be on the operator and use would be on a very limited basis. Mr. Sansom stated that the Airport Authority's SLF group met yesterday and agreed that they should pursue a partnership with Space Florida so that it could possibly benefit everyone involved. Discussion continued.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Sansom adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

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JERRY SANSOM, CHAIRMAN

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VERONICA CLIFFORD, SECRETARY