

MINUTES
WATERLOO REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD
Wednesday, January 26, 2022

I. ROLL CALL

Board Chair Arlene Humble called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Arlene Humble, Gwenne Berry, Scott Voigt, Doug Rathburn and David Deeds.

Board Members Absent: Todd Holcomb and Cary Darrah.

City Officials Present: Councilmember Liaisons Ray Feuss and John Chiles.
City Employees Present: Noel Anderson and Adrienne Miller, Planning Dept.

Airport Staff Present: Keith Kaspari, Airport Director and Sheila Combs, Airport Bookkeeper.

Other Attendees: Doug Schindel and David Hughes, AECOM.

II. AGENDA AS RECEIVED OR AMENDED

Mrs. Berry moved to approve the agenda as received, seconded by Mr. Voigt. Ayes: 4. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. REPORTS

A. Airport Director

Mr. Kaspari asked if there were any questions on his written report. Mr. Voigt asked how the farm bids for the next 3-year term compared to the what was being paid through 2021. Mr. Kaspari stated that the high bid was about \$50/acre higher than was being paid previously. The only bid for hay was from the same bidder and at the same rate.

Mr. Deeds asked what impact the upcoming projects in the CIP, especially the runway intersection project, planned for FY-26, would have on air operations. Mr. Kaspari stated that AECOM will work with FAA to come up with a construction safety and phasing plan to minimize the impacts and interruptions to air traffic operations.

He also stated that on the runway intersection project, even though it is not a complete or full-depth reconstruction, will most likely require an extensive mill and overlay rehabilitation, so the bulk of the work may need to be completed at night, as only one of a few options to complete the project.

B. Legislative Information & Updates

Mr. Kaspari advised the Members of the correspondence sent by IPAA for a funding request to benefit all of the Iowa Airports.

C. Misc. Monthly Airport Reports

General discussion by Staff and the Board regarding expenses, passengers traveled during the month of December, etc.

Moved by Mrs. Berry, seconded by Mr. Rathburn, that the monthly reports be received and filed. Ayes: 4. Motion carried.

V. BOARD APPROVAL

A. Approval of Minutes of the December 15, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Rathburn moved that the minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting be approved, seconded by Mr. Deeds. Ayes: 4. Motion carried.

B. Motion to Receive and File December 2021 Expenses.

Mrs. Humble asked why the Utilities expense was so low for December. Mrs. Combs stated that it was due to the timing of the bill and that there was no Council meeting or bills paid the week between Christmas and New Year's.

Bills had to be turned in by December 13 to be paid at the December 20th meeting and those received after that date were paid in January, so the Utilities expense for January will be doubled.

Mr. Deeds moved that the December 2021 expenses be received and filed, seconded by Mrs. Berry. Ayes: 4. Motion carried.

C. C-1 - CY-2022 – 2023 – 2024 Hay Season Bids:

Staff requesting Notice of Award to:

Mr. Brad Feckers of Shell Rock, Iowa, with a bid of \$52.50 per bale, based on a 1,500-pound bale of hay. No other bids were received.

C-2 - CY-2022 – 2023 – 2024 Farming Season: 1,257.04 Acres:

Staff requesting Notice of Award to:

Apex Agriculture (Mr. Ben Gosse and Mr. Brett Flaherty) of Jesup, Iowa, with a bid of \$330.00 per acre, or \$414,823.20 per year.

Total of four bids were received.

Moved by Mr. Deeds, seconded by Mrs. Berry, that the Award of Bids be approved, as requested. Ayes: 4. Motion carried.

- D. General Discussion: Discussion with Airport Board on Staff Submittals for City of Waterloo CIP Requests from the Airport Department for FY's 2023 – 2027.

Previously discussed.

- E. General Discussion: Staff, Consulting Engineer and Board Discussion on the FAA Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) for 2023 – 2027, and Long Range Needs Analysis.

Mr. Deeds asked if Betsworth Dr. is on the city resurface list. Mr. Kaspari stated that it is on the list for this current year. Mr. Deeds requested that improved signage be added as part of that project.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update: USDOT Response on Waterloo's Community Recommendation for AA to Continue, via Docket NO: DOT-OST-2011-0132.

Mr. Kaspari stated that he is pleased that the DOT has recommended the continuation of American Airlines service to Chicago (ORD), 13 flights per week, with the new 2-Year term beginning on May 1, with two daily flights Sunday thru Friday; and, one daily flight on Saturday.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY-2022 Mid-Year Review of the Operating Budget for the Airport Department.

Mrs. Combs reviewed the FY-22 operations budget. At Mid-Year, ALO has spent approximately 48% of our budgeted funds, with revenues at 44%, and over \$100,000 higher than this time last year. It is good to see revenues starting to show an increase.

- B. General Discussion: Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Mr. Kaspari stated that we have received an allocation of \$1,015,240. Funds for this first allocation of BIL/IIJA funds will likely be used toward pavement preservation on ALO's Primary Runway (12/30) and Taxiway Alpha West; and in future years, additional pavement rehabilitation, updates to the pavement management program, and other high priority airport projects.

Mr. Deeds asked about millions in state funding that is being allocated to DSM for a new Airport Terminal replacement project, and whether the other commercial service airports in Iowa are likely to receive additional state funding.

Mr. Kaspari replied that other airports are hopeful to receive additional funding for airport vertical infrastructure improvements statewide, but it is unknown what direction the Governor's office will proceed, if any, with an allocation of the \$1.4B pandemic relief funds Iowa received, for airport infrastructure improvements.

C. General Discussion: FY-2023 Operating Budget for the Airport Department.

Mr. Kaspari stated that the FY-23 budget was submitted prior to the opening of the farm and hay bids. With the bids coming in higher than expected, we should have a buffer in the operations budget.

D. General Discussion: Board Report on the January 24th Departure of i-Aero dba Swift Air for the Caesars Flight to Laughlin-Bullhead City, Arizona (IFP).

Mr. Kaspari stated that approximately 57 passengers departed from ALO (of 91 total on board the aircraft).

Unfortunately, the passenger boarding bridge was not operable due to the extreme cold, whereby the bridge was unable to elevate to the height of the door threshold of the 737.

The next scheduled flight will be March 5, 2022, returning March 9th, with the April flight scheduled for April 14-18 – both flights to Laughlin (IFP). This will likely be followed by one in May.

At that time, Caesars will probably reassess before scheduling additional flights.

VIII. STAFF AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Berry stated that she is happy about the Caesars charters but wondered if we could expand on that and offer other options, for example charters to NY for shows.

Mr. Kaspari stated nothing like that is currently planned, yet would hope to see future destinations such as: Atlantic City, Reno, Tahoe, Biloxi and other cities within the Caesars list of cities. Mr. Deeds stated that the Air Service Working Group is always looking for these types of partnerships.

Sun Country will begin partnering with Caesars beginning in March, whereby ALO will see Sun Country fly the April Charter, and would enjoy seeing additional frequencies with Sun Country to/from ALO in the future.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Berry moved the meeting be adjourned at 12:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. Deeds. Ayes: 4. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Arlene Humble, Chairperson