

DANBURY AVIATION COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Danbury Aviation Commission -- 7:00 p.m.
Danbury City Hall: 155 Deer Hill Ave., Danbury, CT 06810
Third Floor / Room 3C / Tuesday, May 20, 2008

01 Meeting Called to Order By Commissioner Oppermann as Chairman Ashkar was delayed.

02 Roll Call:

Present: Commissioners Zilinek, Oppermann, Baker, Ashkar

Absent: Frizzell

03 Motion made to accept the March 18, 2008 meeting minutes as written, seconded and unanimously approved.

04 Liaison Report:

Commissioner Oppermann advised no Liaison Report.

Motion made to accept the Liaison Report as written, seconded, and unanimously approved.

05 Administrator's Monthly Report:

Mr. Estefan advised the tree cutting project is out to bid and will be opened Thursday, May 22, 2008. There will be grading at the end of Runway 26 to level out as requested by FAA. The Grenier Family and the City of Danbury has settled for \$1,160,000 paid by the City and will be 95% reimbursed by the FAA. Nine trees have been cut already on the Grenier property. EIC permits will be required for additional tree cutting in wetlands area. Moving forward on Brown, Edmunds, Grenier, and Wooster School trees. Completion date is undetermined pending opening of bids. One contractor wants to use a helicopter to remove the Wooster School trees and cut them up at the Grenier property due to the excess weight of equipment on the bridges of Wooster School. About 9 weeks is scheduled to complete the job. Commissioner Baker inquired on how long FAA funding will be received once the trees are down. Mr. Estefan advised he will be requesting FAA to have DXR added to the grant lists. Mr. Estefan advised July 3rd is the Fireworks Display at the Airport upon approval by the FAA.

Motion made to accept Administrator's Monthly report, seconded and unanimously approved.

Motion made to open Public Speaking, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Public Speaking:

Mr. Andre Bohy, Danbury Aviation, requested an update on the construction of Route 7 affecting the approach of 26. Mr. Estefan advised according to the News Times, Route 7 project ran out of funds to complete the project, so it is now on hold for this section. Mr. Bohy asked if we would be getting Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) after the trees are cut down and how many trees are being cut down. Mr. Estefan advised it was up to the FAA and as far as how many, there are acres of trees to be cut down.

Motion made to close Public Speaking, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Sadler Aircraft

Mr. Estefan read into the minutes Subcommittee Meeting Minutes dated Friday, April 25, 2008 (copy attached), as submitted by Commissioners Oppermann and Zilinek.

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Chairman Ashkar requested a clarification from Commissioner Oppermann, who advised giving access to the airport via the stubs or short taxiways is basically taking private property and giving them forever access to the airport at no cost to the city except responsibility. The City would be given deeded rights to the parking area and the city would be the one that would have to maintain it and have some sort of security, with Sadler customers having forever rights to use such parking area at no cost. Commissioner Oppermann added having 8 LLC's on this property makes him nervous about the idea and has questions on overall responsibility. Chairman Ashkar was informed by Legal that Sadler is up to date on all permit fees and rental fees.

Attorney Hannafin advised that there will be only one (1) LLC who would own the property which would have eight (8) members. Regarding the parking area we are making provisions for parking for the people who would be using it, that parking lot is not tied to the original property which was purchased by Sadler from the city, it was acquired later. Attorney Pinter advised Attorney Gottschalk has not seen the subcommittee report and a final report is not complete. There are also issues that need to be straightened out regarding the fuel truck.

Attorney Pinter stated the Aviation Commission needs to recommend two things to the Common Council which are the business plan as proposed and that you have reviewed and adopted the package to support the plan including easements, parking area, etc.

Centennial Helicopter

Mr. Estefan read into the minutes his letter of recommendation dated May 20, 2008 (copy attached). Chairman Ashkar asked Centennial Helicopter would be operating as a specialized category; Mr. Estefan advised fees would still have to be paid but under modification. Chairman Ashkar advised the Commission is in agreement with this request, but we need to get specialized information and fee structure in writing before a decision can be made. Mr. Estefan advised the Commission can adopt the report as written and I would go back and do the category research fees and report back to the commission. Attorney Pinter suggested the Commission suspend the fees Centennial is now paying pending the fee structure of the specialized fee structure. Chairman Ashkar requested the Legal Department not take any action against Centennial for past due permit fees; which Attorney Pinter advised a request would need to be submitted to the Finance Department.

Motion was made to accept the report as written with the request a specialized fee structure be constructed, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Motion was made to instruct the Legal Department to not take any legal action against Centennial Helicopter until resolution of a specialized fee structure is adopted, as well as allowing Centennial Helicopters operation to exist under Section 6.2 of the Minimum Standards, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Runway 8 Approach Update

Mr. Estefan distributed a memo which advertised the bid opening at City Hall. The engineer's estimate was around \$360,000 to cut the trees, which is 95% funded by the FAA with the balance paid by the State of Connecticut and the City.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, and unanimously approved.

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