



New Bedford Regional Airport

March 20, 2017 – 6:10 PM - **Minutes**

1852 Shawmut Ave., Bridgewater State University Aviation Training Center

Members Present

Paul Barton
Carlos DaCunha
Gary Correia
Adam Simmons
William Gushue
Russ Olson
Jason Oliveira

Members Absent

Airport Admin Staff

Scot Servis, Airport Manager
Joan Jones, Principal Clerk

Others Present

Mayor Mitchell	Bob Mallard	Eric Jaikes
Rich Lasdin	Chris Willenborg	Christine Connelly
Wesley Sykes	Chris Cunningham	Dot Cunningham
Steve Parsons	David Scott	Betty Scott
Michael Knabbe	Rick Bartle	Bill Whelan
Bill M. Whelan	Jim Kummer	

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman at 6:10pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll call was taken by the Chairman and all commissioners were present
4. The members of the Airport Commission have received minutes of the previous meeting held on March 1, 2017. Request acceptance of those minutes, as recorded. Motion to approve minutes made by Commissioner Gushue and 2nd by Commissioner Da Cunha. Motion carried.
5. Reports:
 - a. Manager's – Scot Servis reported on the following items:
 - i. Operations briefing – operating numbers are up except for enplanements
 - ii. Financial/Operations report – in packages
 - iii. Terminal Update – last of the doors went in for the TSA checkpoint
 - iv. Winter operations update – snow removal and preparations worked out well
 - v. TSA update – security plan is in for review
 - vi. 139 Update – this manual is also in for review
 - vii. Other items as necessary – nothing at this time
 - b. Airport Solutions Group (written report included in package). Rich Lasdin went over the report dated 3/17. It was noted that the Land Swap title issue has been resolved and after a minor revision to the deed it will go over to the Planning Board. Atty. Jaikes told the commission of the City procedures after the Planning Board approval and what this entire proposal entailed and noted we are looking at maybe 2-3 months before this is concluded.
 - c. Chairman Report:

i. Discussion with Mayor Mitchell – Mayor was running late so Chairman addressed the audience and voiced his concern over the 14-32 runway width reduction to 75’ (in upcoming FAA project). Chair feels we cannot grow or compete with a 75’ runway (he compared other airports) and asked Mr. Mallard (ASG) what are options are with the FAA. Mr. Mallard said he has met with FAA several times regarding this matter and that the FAA has been crystal clear and consistent that we are just not eligible and data does not support a 100’ wide runway or their design standards. Mr. Mallard said he has tried to make a case on different levels to convince them but it has proven to be fruitless – they remain adamant and steadfast. Mr. Mallard did note that you cannot compare airports to other airports due to aircraft fleet arriving and departing, furthermore, we have had 150’ runway for many decades so the opportunity has existed but the numbers are not there. Chair would like Mr. Mallard to convince the FAA to take a chance on us as things have changed here and continue to do so. Mr. Mallard explained the funding issues that both the state and FAA must deal with causing them to only being able to fund the standards. They have no problem if we exceed the standards but we must find the funding elsewhere (they may reconsider if the data changes to support our argument). Mr. Mallard cautioned that we have done very well with funding in the past (we had received \$40,000,000 in project cost funding since 2006 and \$15,000,000 prior to that) but this is not a battle you want to fight given the concessions the FAA made in the past for us. Commissioner DaCunha asked what it would cost us for the additional 50’ width and Mr. Mallard estimated it to be about \$1,000,000.00 and about \$3,000,000 if width went to 150’.

At this point Mayor Mitchell arrived and addressed the commission and audience. (1) Mayor Mitchell thanked everyone for all their hard work and then he suggested making a strategic/business plan taking us into the next 5 years or so showing where the airport fits in to drive the city assets, as it has a lot of potential and advantages. (2) The mayor also noted that we are short 2 board members so this matter also needed to be looked into and worked on. (3) Mayor was not aware of the runway shortening but stated funding for the additional width would be extremely hard and the city cannot take on additional debt at this time, but maybe in the future the runway could be widened. Mayor noted his frustration concerning the fact that we still do not have a new terminal building and he will continue working with the state to get this endeavor accomplished. That being said, the mayor again thanked everyone before departing.

Bill Whelan, Sr. addressed the commission next and stated he feels we will lose business with a 75’ runway and putting that in with 139 doesn’t make any sense to him. Decisions have to be made and he feels a 75’ is a huge mistake and 139 is causing a huge burden on the FBO’s. Mr. Whelan also spoke in favor of the need of a strategic plan

Commissioners Correia and Oliveira noted that 75’ wide runway is not good to land on and 100’ wide runway is what is needed for growth potential here. There was a brief discussion regarding width and length for C2 and B2 runways (and requirements) and it was noted we have a B2. Commissioner Oliveira stated for the record that it was his understanding that we gave up the width to keep the length of runway.

Bill M. Whelan spoke next regarding the 75’ width runway issue. Mr. Whelan had concerns about cost of moving basins, lights, etc and just putting a new stripped top coat and Mr. Mallard explained procedure and why this is not possible for reconstruction – bottom line is that the width is just not eligible. Mr. Whelan also felt that it makes no sense to have 139 with a 75’ wide runway. If we settle for 75’ from what we have now we will never get it back.

Chairman asked if we have any options regarding FAA. Mr. Mallard said we can have another meeting with FAA (the 4th) but we should go with “real data” that is supported by tower figures (supporting a 100’ wide runway) but he reiterated the FAA views concerning our eligibility. Steve Parsons, ATC Tower Manager, stated he has usage records of jet traffic but it is not broken down between runways. Chris Willenborg cautioned that approaching FAA yet again we are taking a chance on future projects with discretionary funding (due to time line of apps). Mr. Lasdin noted that if we can convince the FAA that this is a C2 runway this would then require longer safety areas and we who have to shorten the length of the runway. Funding can be tied to regulations and the FAA is the regulator and they have design standards and regulations. After further discussion, chair asked if Mr. Mallard could approach FAA and ask if they could

come up with partial funding to keep the width at 100' if we could get some funding from the city. Chris Cunningham addressed the commission to speak of the possibility of using a displaced threshold and Mr. Mallard explained why that can't be done. Motion was made by Commissioner DaCunha and 2nd by Commissioner Gushue to have Mr. Mallard go to FAA and again ask them to reconsider the 75' width and bring it back to 100' if we can get some funding from the city and if FAA would be willing to fund some of the extra cost. Motion carried. Mr. Mallard did reiterate that the FAA has no problem if we keep the 100' width if we pay the difference ourselves, other than that this is pretty black and white and they don't bend but he will gladly meet with them.

d. Committee Reports

- i. Operations Committee – nothing to report
- ii. Finance & Audit Committee - nothing to report but a meeting is forthcoming
- iii. Marketing & Planning Committee - nothing to report
- iv. Special Events Committee - nothing to report

6. City Solicitor – monthly status report – Atty. Jaikes reported a default letter went out March 17 to a tenant that was significantly in rental arrears. This issue has since been resolved and tenant is now current.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- a. April Meeting Date is SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19, 2017

9. Communications – There are new committee assignments in packages

10. Tabled Business

11. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn at 7:45 made by Commissioner Da Cunha and 2nd by Commissioner Olson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Jones
New Bedford Regional Airport