



# *Special Committee on the Airport*

May 8, 2017 – 7:01 PM - **Minutes**

City Hall, 133 William Street, Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber,  
Room 213, Municipal Building

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON THE AIRPORT**

**DATE: MAY 08, 2017**

**TIME: 7:01P.M.**

**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS JAMES OLIVEIRA, CHAIRMAN; LINDA MORAD, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY; BRIAN GOMES (7:20); STEVEN MARTINS**

**ABSENT: NO ONE**

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Councillor Oliveira called the Airport Committee Meeting to order and took attendance, everyone was present; the Clerk announced he received a phone call from Councillor Gomes stating he would be a little late in attending tonight's meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Morad and Oliveira, requesting that Airport Manager Scot Servis be asked to provide the Special Committee on the Airport with updates regarding the New Bedford Regional Airport 139FAA Certification process and the TSA Security Plan and further how these new regulations will affect operations at the airport and the Fixed Based Operators (Ref'd 3/9/17) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1)

Scot Servis, Director of the Airport gave the Committee an overview of the 139FAA certification process and the TSA Security plan. The airport is 99% complete with its TSA check point and is currently waiting on its certification to approve the security plans to be put in place. The local operating businesses (FBO's) would not be affected much by the TSA regulations.

The airport is approximately 80% done with the revisions of the operating manual which will also need approval as well. The airport will be visited by the FAA and TSA on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for review and approval of plans in place. To receive certification, the airport had to improve fire apparatus and firefighter training as well as, clearing brush and trees, creating a separate waiting area for passengers once they passed through TSA security and incorporate new badge and bagging procedures.

Councillor Morad asked about specific costs as it related to the TSA upgrades. She was told that the clearing of the brush, improvements of terminal checkpoint area cost approximately \$75,000, but that the labor was done by airport employees and DFFM employees as well. The cost to improve the operating manual cost approximately \$30,000; but this was all within the airport budget. This will allow for an upgrade to a 139FAA certification which will allow for larger airlines to use the airport.

Councillor Morad expressed her concern that the upgrades though needed were pushed on the local vendors too fast and many are having a hard time securing financing to secure the proper apparatus to keep their businesses going. It was unfair strain to place on the FBO's so quickly.

A discussion took place on the feasibility study done by Elite Airlines who are scheduled to begin flights to Newark, NJ in the summer and Melbourne, FL in the winter out of the airport. Mr. Servis explained a study was done by

Elite and they found a need for such transportation from New Bedford. Elite is waiting on the 139 Certification and once the airport receives this a contract between the airport and Elite should be signed within 60 days. The aircraft Elite will be using can carry up to 70 passengers. Runway 523 would be used.

A conversation about the FAA funding the improvements to the current 75 foot wide airstrip which was originally constructed in 1943 took place.

Bob Mallard of SSG Consulting, the Consultant for the airport explained that while it would be better to expand the 75' to 100' the FAA will not budge on funding the additional 25' which would cost approximately an additional \$1.1 million. The airport wants to take the money to do the improvements, for the current runway is in dire need of repairs and resurfacing which would allow the strip to meet FAA standards.

Paul Barton, Chairman of the Airport Commission explained that the Commission and Mr. Mallard have been trying to convince the FAA to change their mind on the funding, but they will not. A dialogue to get them to change their position has been going on for many years now. But if the city does not take the money for the upgrade as proposed the airstrip will become obsolete and the money will be given to another airport.

Councillor Carney asked if money was available to add on to the strip at some point in time could that be done, and she was told yes, but it would be costly.

Gary Correia, Commission member, he currently flies for Jet Blue. He gave a pilots perspective on the project and said the airport would be okay if they moved ahead with the runway as proposed.

Councillor Morad asked if Mr. Servis approached the Administration to secure the \$1.1 million to increase the footage to 100'. He stated discussions did take place, but the Mayor said there were other areas that money could be used on other city projects. Councillor Morad expressed concern that the body could be asked to approve \$2.1 million for garage for city vehicles, that, that money could be used towards the airport to make the airport more viable to attract business.

Councillor Morad asked how much money had been spent on the plans to revamp the airstrip in question, by hiring a consultant and who authorized it. No one seemed to have the answer. She was concerned that money has been spent on consultants when the money from the FAA has yet to be received. Councillor Morad asked that the Commission provide the Committee with copies of the last twelve (12) months of meeting minutes. The Commissioner said he would have them sent.

On motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To recommend that the City Council request that the Committee on the Airport be updated from the Administration to determine who authorized the spending for the design plans for the current project to replace or upgrade runway 432. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Morad, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Carney, the Committee VOTED: To waive the reading of items 2,3 & 4 and follow the Chairs recommendation to take "No Further Action" on these matters; and that they be reported out from the Committee on taking "No Further Action." This motion passed on a voice vote. They are as follows:

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a COMMUNICATION, Councillor Alves, submitting copies of letters to Mayor Mitchell from Colonial Air, Sandpiper Air, Inc. and Nor East Aviation Services, Inc., regarding concerns of the New Bedford Regional Airport Commission. (4/11/13) (2)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Alves and Martins, requesting, that the Special Committee on the Airport look into the concerns addressed by the Representatives of the New Bedford Regional Airport businesses as to the recommendation that at least one member (or more) of the Airport Commission be a General

Aviation Pilot to insure the concerns and issues of general aviation pilots are considered, as discussion of future airport plans are negotiated. (Ref'd 4/11/13) (3)

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Oliveira, Carney, Morad, Rebeiro, Alves, Coelho, Council President Gomes, Bousquet and Lopes, requesting that the Special Committee on the Airport convene in the immediate future to discuss and understand what issues the Airport Commission and Management face relevant to its periodic lack of quorums, attendance records of its members and to have a frank discussion with lease holders on how it will seek to conduct business expeditiously in the ensuing months as much is at stake for all parties concerned to conduct the airport business in a manner that is perceived as transparent by all parties. (Ref'd 5/14/15) (4)

Councillor Martins made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Morad.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees