

The regular monthly meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority was held August 8, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. in the Airport Conference Room. Board members present were Tom Nopper, John McKenna, Steve Williamson and Yvonne Jarrett. Tom Nopper performed the duties as Chairman as Richard Roehm was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Roehm is also the Chairman of the Board of Regents and needed to be in Helena to testify to various legislative committees. Ted Mathis, Airport Director, Brian Sprenger, Assistant Director and Cherie Ferguson, Clerk, were present.

Tom Nopper asked for the addition of two items to the agenda. One was that the Board needs to have the election of officers and the other is to review the letter Chairman Roehm wrote, and with the Board's approval, will send to the County Commissioners.

Mr. Nopper also commended the Airport Director and Assistant Airport Director for their excellent annual report.

The first agenda item was to review and approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 11, 2002. Steve Williamson moved to accept the minutes as mailed, John McKenna seconded the motion and it passed unopposed.

The second agenda item was the public comment period. Mark Duffy, of Central Helicopters, said he would like to propose building construction and move to the airport, but he sent in his request too late to be on the agenda.

He would like to put up a building on the east ramp and move his air taxi/helicopter operations to the airport. The building would have office and hangar space as well as a maintenance area. He would also like to provide 24-hour jetfuel and avgas self-service and a mobile 24-hour jetfuel and avgas truck for aircraft on the ramp.

Mr. Mathis asked him if he had an affiliation with a fuel company. Mr. Duffy said no, and that they have their own trucks. They purchase from Air BP but are an independent distributor at this time.

Mr. Nopper informed him that he would need to submit fairly detailed plans for the Director to review, and asked how much local traffic his business would bring. Mr. Duffy said that they have been out of the area most of the time since April. They provided services for two months in New York, and since then for fighting fires in Colorado and Utah. They will have some limited local air traffic to take passengers and cargo to outlying areas.

Mr. Duffy said he didn't have detailed plans at this time because he wanted to receive approval from the Board before spending money for the plans.

The Board said they were interested in future business in the new ramp area but couldn't grant approval without having the plans. They said they would consider an interim meeting if he got the plans to Mr. Mathis before the next Board meeting.

Tom Nagorski's comments were that he questioned the wisdom, fairness and propriety of the Board adding agenda items at the meeting since there is a one-week cut off for the agenda.

Mr. Nopper said the by-laws require the election of officers, so it needs to be taken care of at this meeting.

Mr. Williamson made a motion to retain the same officers as last year; John McKenna seconded the motion, which carried. Richard Roehm is the Chairman, Tom Nopper is the Vice-Chairman and Yvonne Jarrett is the Secretary-Treasurer.

The third agenda item was to continue consideration of landscaping standards for new east ramp area. Ted Mathis said there were no changes to the draft standards that were considered at the last meeting except that he had removed the italics. The Board members

discussed water usage and charges, the differentiation of these standards from the minimum operating standards, the ability to revisit the requirements, continuity and the possibility of a suitable alternative plan if someone requests it.

Yvonne Jarrett moved approval of the landscaping requirements with the addition that a variance to the landscaping requirements can be applied for through the Airport Director. Mr. Williamson seconded the motion and it passed.

The next item to be discussed was the proposed letter Mr. Roehm would like to send to the Chairman of the Gallatin County Commissioners. Because the Board has recently accepted a document outlining the Chairperson's duties and one of those is to assist in the recruitment of Board Members, and because the Board is to evaluate the Board from time to time and report to the commissioners, Mr. Roehm would like to send a copy of the Gallatin Airport Authority Board Members Commitment and Responsibilities to the County Commissioners. He would like this document, which has also been approved by the Airport Authority Board, to be considered as the commissioners are selecting Airport Authority Board members.

The Board members concurred with sending the letter.

The fourth agenda item was the report on passenger boardings and flight operations - Brian Sprenger. Mr. Sprenger reported that in July there were 683 air carrier operations, 665 air taxi, 2,819 GA itinerant and 8 military, for a total of 4,175 itinerant operations. Local general aviation operations were 2,765, for a total of 6,940 tower operations in July, up 16.76% from July a year ago. There were 174 landings of aircraft over 12,500 pounds, up 9.43% from July 2001. Again, July was a strong month in all categories. Local GA traffic was up 68%. Military traffic was down significantly due to the air show last year in July.

Mr. Sprenger reported that passenger boardings were 30,818, up 2.60% from July a year ago. Year to date is up 1.86% compared to the same period in 2001. This July was the 6th straight record month and the 30,818 passengers boarded in July is an all time passenger record. The number of seats available for July has been increased by 8.7% over July last year. The number of enplanements grew by 2.6%, which caused the load factor (number of seats filled) to decrease from 87.7% to 82.8%. The number of seats available year to date grew by 3.8%, with enplanements growing by 1.8%, which resulted in a year-to-date load factor decrease from 78.1% to 76.6%.

August should be another good month, with the probability of it being another record month.

The fifth agenda item was the Director's Report – Ted Mathis. Mr. Mathis reported that he had been asked to give an update on the status of radar coverage for Gallatin Field. The nearest radar site is on Sawtell Peak in Ashton, Idaho, so there is an area that cannot be seen by radar due to the mountains in the Bozeman area.

Gallatin Field needs better coverage because of the increase in instrument traffic for inbound and outbound. There has been a 10% increase in corporate jet landings over 12,500 pounds from July last year. That doesn't count the number of aircraft under 12,500 pounds.

We have worked with our congressional delegation and two years ago language was added to an appropriations bill that the FAA was to cooperate with Gallatin Field to conduct a site survey for radar at Gallatin Field. The study was done and two favorable sites were located on airport property.

Senator Burns had language in an appropriations bill directing the FAA to cooperate with us on the installation of radar or multilateration surveillance, but when it was sent to committee, someone advised him to do a site survey, which has already been done.

The FAA is currently purchasing ASR11 radar units from Raytheon. All are being used to replace older radar units that are no longer supported.

Mr. Mathis has investigated the possibility of multilateration surveillance, which was originally designed to track aircraft on the ground. It has been found to work better in the air than radar. It would only show aircraft that have a transponder, but about 98% of all aircraft are so equipped.

Mr. Mathis has been working with the Sensis Corporation. Northwest Airlines has written a letter of support, as well. We are not asking for a handout, we are just looking for cooperation. This is not a certified product so it would have to be a demonstration project, which could help it become certified. The Airport Authority, Sensis Corporation and the FAA would have to participate.

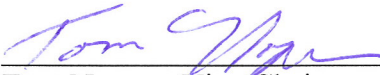
Mr. Mathis also reported that construction on the east ramp, turf runway, effluent system and municipal well is moving along and that the 15th car condominium is under construction.

The Transportation Security Administration sent in people from Boeing and Lockheed Martin regarding security areas we have set up and need to set up. They were very impressed with our new screening area and only had a few minor changes.

Scott Bell of Morrison-Maierle, the engineering firm who has the contract with the airport, is meeting today with an appraiser in Missoula who may do some work for us. Of the people who were contacted regarding selling land to the airport, two are interested, one is not interested, three are somewhat interested, and two have not been heard from yet.

The sixth agenda item was to consider the bills and approve for payment. After review and discussion, Mr. McKenna moved to pay the bills and Mr. Williamson seconded the motion, which carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



Tom Nopper, Vice-Chairman