

AIRPORT COMMISSION
6:00 P.M.
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024
SCHIEFFELIN HALL
(CORNER OF FREMONT AND FOURTH STREET)

- I. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Daniel Valle called the Airport Commission Meeting to order on Monday May 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Chairman Daniel Valle led the Commission in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. ROLL CALL**
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|----------------------------|---------|
| Chairman Daniel Valle | Present |
| Commissioner John Jordan | Present |
| Commissioner Ken Stickler | Absent |
| Commissioner Brent Webb | Absent |
| Commissioner Steve McNeely | Present |

Also, in attendance: Secretary Cora Nell Osgood

IV. CALL TO PUBLIC

With no participants, Chairman closes Call of the Public.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Approval of minutes for Airport Commission from Monday, April 22, 2024.

MOTION by Commissioner McNeely, **SECOND** by Commissioner Jordan, to approve the minutes for Airport Commission from Monday, August 28, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Valle: One correction, Cora. On the minutes is Mr. Jason Bowling, the CEO of SSVc. His last name is spelled like bowling. B-o-w-l.

VOTE: 3/2/0

MOTION: Carried

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Report from Roy Jones on how operations are going at the Tombstone Municipal Airport, and future initiatives he is working on to improve the Airport.

- **Electricity:** A week and a half ago, Bill Barlow, Dan Valle, and Roy Jones had a meeting with Joshua of Lighthouse Solar, and he had ideas as how to run power out at the airport and be completely off grid. It was discussed about doing it in phases, and phase one would be the hanger area which would power the current hanger, the motorhome, and five ramp lights. One of those lights would be on twenty-four seven while the rest of those would be motion activated. A second meeting is scheduled on June 13th. Estimate for phase one would be \$55K-\$65K. There should not be any issues extending to any new hangars as that is the plan for phase 2, and the cost of Phase 1 is making it Phase 2 ready. Chairman Valle also reports that he and Mr. Barlow are in communications with Jason Bowling at SSVc about pricing for either hardwire or solar electricity. Roy Jones is also in communications with Cory East at SVCC, but the numbers he received are quite lower than the preliminary numbers that Chairman Valle received.
- **Hangars:** A gentleman is ready to build. He will build from the south fence to the tarmac, running east to west. He is looking at either building 12 hangars or eight hangars and then two larger hangars at the end where he would house his aircraft. He also likes the idea of utilizing those hangars for solar panels which reduces the cost of installing them in the first place so we can all be friends and work together and have this be good.
- **Operations:** There is at least one plane landing each day. The courtesy truck is requested two to three times a week. Those people are coming to the airport landing, getting in the truck, going into town,

spending money, coming back, getting fuel and heading back to, to Phoenix or wherever they come from. Yesterday we had a father and a son in two separate aircraft come in and do exactly that.

- **Fuel:** Last year, 2023, we sold about 2,000 gallons worth of fuel. Since January 1st to this point we've sold about 6,000 gallons of fuel. The large portion of that is the Cochise County Sheriff's Department. I am set up with them. We are their fuel source. Roy Jones is contact with the Sheriff of the Cochise County and looking at the possibility of basing that aircraft at TMA. He is also in contact with Lifeline who's based in St. David and in Douglas. They're discussing possibly putting in a third aircraft and basing it at TMA. And that would basically take over the market in this area. Tombstone just happens to be dead middle of everything. Illegal aliens, accidents, whatever you want.
 - **Fly-Ins:** The first one was the West Valley flyers out of Phoenix, with 18 aircraft. The owners of the Longhorn had 40 people show up that morning. That's how we inspire commerce through the airport. Roy Jones will be going throughout the town and talking to individual business owners and making them aware fly-ins. We've got people staying in hotels, visiting Allen Street, and touring the whole area. The second fly-in was the 15th of March, with eight or nine planes and about 25-30. Roy Jones cooked breakfast that day. The next fly-in will be the third Saturday of June with 20-25.
 - **FAA Certification:** Roy Jones does not believe that this is a good idea. Chairman Valle asks for reasons. Roy Jones answers, "the federal government, if we become a federally funded airport, becomes our babysitter and we report to them. Everything that we do is on their radar. Not that we're going to do anything wrong, but with what we have here, I think the way that we are progressing this airport is the way that we need to do it, slowly but surely. And in the end, we still have complete control over everything. We can do what we want to do, we can do it how we want to do it. And we don't have Uncle Sam looking over us all the time. And I've just experienced this for the last ten years at the Benson airport, and it's not a nice thing for now, it is not a nice thing. There are 32 grant assurances that have to be met, and I didn't come prepared with those grant assurances, but it's just, it's just big brother declaring what you can do and what you can't do and what color shoes you have to wear. And it's. Although it sounds appealing because we want stuff in the end, I don't think it's good for us right now." Chairman Valle is not in agreement and this matter should be deferred to the Commission, there are too many federal grant opportunities to not continue to reach this goal. Jesse Grassman comments that he agrees that we are not at a point to seek FAA certification but we need to continue to move forward. It is in agreement to continue to move forward, so in 5 to 10 years FAA certification can be applied for.
 - **Publicizing:** Roy Jones has a Facebook page and he is to send link to Secretary Osgood to include on City of Tombstone Website. City is in the process of working on placing a link for the airport on Discover Tombstone.
 - **Speed:** Commissioner McNeely asks if Roy Jones is happy with the speed of progress. Roy answers that he does not want to move any slower but if we can continue at the current rate, we should see some great improvements.
- B. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:** Monthly Reporting Form to be completed by Roy Jones each month.
- Due the 15th of the month after closure of previous month.
 - First Report Due June 15th, for the Month of May.
 - Changes made to night, will be the final draft of Report Template.
 - Roy Jones is unable to give an accurate count of operations, as he does not have anyone there to count planes that land or take off, also each radio call is considered an operation. Commission requests to do an estimate to give a picture to City Council and City Hall.
 - Gas Section to only report the total amount sold, not divided by type.
 - Change the term Gas to Fuel.
 - Unable to list all customers by name. Change section to include only major commercial organizations, like Cochise County Sheriff, Lifeline, etc.
 - No contracts for fuel sales, just verbal agreements, so remove the term contract from report.
 - Report will be used to show City Hall, City Council, and Commission what is happening on a monthly basis between Commission meetings.
 - Add Facebook page link onto report.

C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Update on Apron Expansion Project.

- The Apron Expansion Project is complete and waiting for ADOT to do final walk through.
- A ditch was built for drainage and runs where vehicle parking was to be installed.
- Culverts were installed for paths from the parking area to Airport.
- Ditch is rocked on both sides in areas of highest use.
- 3 additional tie downs were added giving a total of 6.
- Jesse Grassman will get chain and hooks for the new tie downs.

D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION: Any other Tombstone Municipal Airport Initiatives.

- Next Meeting was set for August 12, 2024


VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION by Commissioner McNeely, **SECOND** by Commissioner Jordan, to adjourn meeting.

VOTE: 3/2/0

MOTION: Carried

The Airport Commission thereupon adjourned the April 22, 2024 meeting.



Daniel Valle, Chairman