

# Walker Field Airport Authority

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## Minutes of the Special Board Meeting

October 16, 2003

**BOARD COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**      Bob McCormick                      Jim Gardner  
   Roger Little                              Gregg Palmer  
   Craig Springer                              Miles McCormack

**AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT:**              Corinne Nystrom                      David Anderson  
   Donna VanLandingham                      Charlie Novinski  
   Ted Balbier

**ALSO PRESENT:**              Margie Thomas of Great Lakes Aviation, Ltd.; Bob Kretschman of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel; Greg Morrison of the Grand Junction Police Department; Ralph Hamblin, John O'Rourke, and Rene Dhenin of the Transportation Security Administration; and Authority Attorney Mike Grattan of Younge & Hockensmith, P.C.

### **I.      CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm.

### **II.     APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Palmer moved to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Little seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

### **III.    DISCUSSION OF SPECIALIZED DETAILS OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT WALKER FIELD AIRPORT (EXECUTIVE SESSION)**

Commissioner Palmer moved to enter into executive session to:

- conference with an attorney for the local body for the purposes of "receiving legal advice on specific legal questions" as outlined in Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) § 24-6-402(4)(b);
- discuss "matters required to be kept confidential by federal...rules and regulations" pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 1520 and kept confidential as outlined in C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(c);
- discuss "specialized details of security arrangements" as outlined in C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(d); and

- consider any “documents protected by the mandatory nondisclosure provisions of part 2 of article 72 of the Open Records Act” as outlined in C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(g).

Commissioner Palmer further moved that without compromising the purpose for which the executive session was requested, the topic of discussion pertains to “specialized details of security arrangements at Walker Field Airport.” Commissioner McCormack seconded.

Bob Kretschman of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel requested that any discussions pertaining to the proposed reimbursement agreement for law enforcement services at Walker Field or applicable financial information pertaining to those services be discussed in the open portion of the Board Meeting. The Board concurred with Mr. Kretschman.

Voice vote: all ayes, except for Chairman McCormick, who voted against entering into executive session. Motion carried.

Chairman McCormick stated that the Board entered into executive session at 3:40pm to discuss “specialized details of security arrangements at Walker Field Airport.” He noted that the executive session would be recorded in the same manner as the recording of the open portion of the Board Meeting. No formal action would be taken during the executive session.

Commissioner McCormack moved to exit executive session. Commissioner Little seconded. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried. The Board exited from executive session at 5:52pm.

Commissioner Palmer stated for the record that the Board confined its discussion during executive session to those items stated in the original motion to enter into executive session.

#### **IV. LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION AND THE WALKER FIELD, COLORADO, PUBLIC AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

This topic is a follow-up to an agenda item that was discussed at the October 7, 2003 Special Board Meeting. According to a mandate recently imposed by the local Federal Security Director for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Authority is required to have a law enforcement officer (LEO) present at the security screening checkpoint at all times when passenger screening operations are being conducted. LEO services are currently provided by the City of Grand Junction Police Department. The costs associated with LEO personnel are now being billed to the Authority by the City of Grand Junction.

Last year, the TSA stated that it would assume the responsibility of having a federal LEO at all airport screening checkpoints as soon as possible. However, this transition has not come to fruition. Instead, the TSA has abdicated this responsibility to local airport operators.

In order to provide some financial assistance to the Authority for the costs associated with providing uniformed officers at the checkpoint, airport operators can enter into the proposed Reimbursement Agreement (RA) with the TSA. The initial term of the RA is June 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003, with up to five (5) one (1)-year extensions at the

option of the TSA. Authority Attorney Grattan has reviewed and approved the RA to protect the Authority.

Although the standard provisions within the RA are acceptable to Authority Attorney Grattan, Staff disagrees with the proposed amounts of the reimbursements proffered by the TSA. The initial City of Grand Junction LEO costs are \$37.59/hour, but the TSA's initial term (through September 30<sup>th</sup>) reimbursement offer is \$31.32/hour. This amount and the 2003-2004 reimbursement amounts are higher than the initial amounts offered by the TSA because of a successful appeal by the Authority. The resulting deficit for the initial term (even with the increased reimbursement amounts) is approximately \$40,050 per year.

For October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, the proposed reimbursement amount is \$32.20/hour. However, the City of Grand Junction Police Department stated that it will seek to invoice the Authority approximately \$55.00/per hour effective January 1, 2004 in order to recover its actual costs for providing the LEO services. Based on the City's hourly increase, the projected deficit for the Authority in FY 2004 is approximately \$145,635.

Commissioner Springer recommended that Chairman McCormick appoint a committee to meet with representatives from Mesa County, the City of Grand Junction, and the TSA to develop options for reducing the difference between the amount the Authority will have to pay for law enforcement services at the security screening checkpoint versus the proposed reimbursement amount from the TSA. Chairman McCormick stated that the Security Committee would consist of Commissioner McCormack, Commissioner Little, and possibly Commissioner Springer or Chairman McCormick.

Regarding the proposed Reimbursement Agreement, Manager Nystrom recommended that the proposed Agreement be tabled for action at a future Board Meeting, pending the outcome of further discussions with the TSA and other local entities regarding law enforcement personnel for the passenger security screening checkpoint. The consensus of the Board was to consider this item at a future Board Meeting.

**V. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL FY 2003 CAPITAL ITEMS**

The Boarding Area Expansion/Passenger Loading Bridges project costs are estimated to be \$2,102,891. The project scope includes:

- Additional passenger boarding area
- Restrooms for new boarding area
- Concession space for new boarding area
- Two (2) passenger loading bridges
- Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) for new and existing gate areas

At the present time, \$2,102,891 is authorized and appropriated from passenger facility charge (PFC) revenues, PFC enterprise revenue notes, cost savings from existing FY 2003 appropriated capital projects, and terminal building general revenue bond proceeds.

To ensure that the soils, foundation, and steel structure are sampled, tested, and monitored during the project, testing firms will be contracted to provide these services. The amount of these services will total \$18,000. These funds will be paid to three (3) firms in separate

transactions (none of which will exceed \$10,000 individually) in order to comply with State bid requirements.

Because of favorable FY 2003 year-to-date operating variances and availability of existing funds, Staff recommended that the Board approve and appropriate an additional \$18,000 for the Boarding Area Expansion Project.

Commissioner Little moved to approve and appropriate an additional \$18,000 for the Boarding Area Expansion Project. Commissioner McCormack seconded.

Commissioner McCormack asked if any of the firms that were involved with the initial Runway 11/29 rehabilitation project would be used for the Boarding Area Expansion project. Manager Nystrom noted that Kumar & Associates will perform some of the testing, but their involvement with the Runway 11/29 project was for the repair work completed after the initial project.

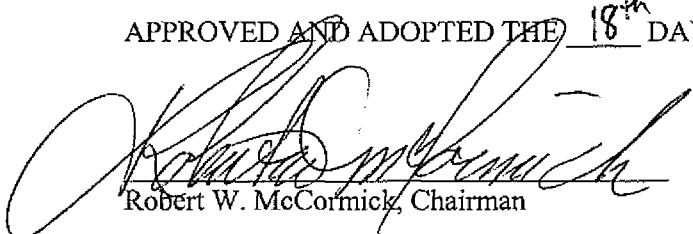
Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

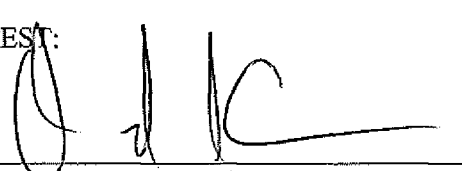
There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner McCormack moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Springer seconded. Unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23pm.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2003.

  
Robert W. McCormick, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
David J. Anderson, Clerk