

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nocerino at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Robert W. Bodenmiller, Stella Barbera and Joan Flaumenbaum. Richard Grant was absent.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Nocerino announced that he is changing the format slightly for tonight's meeting in order to bring everyone up to date on their concerns with the Governor's announcements and comments in the press over the past few months. Mr. Geiger will explain the RFP (Request For Proposal) process so everyone can fully understand what is going on with operations of the airport.

Commissioner Nocerino and members of this Commission have recently met with local political officials. The Long Island delegation, including Majority Leader Senator Skelos, fully support this Commission's position against privatizing and the possibility of commercial services at Republic Airport.

Commissioner Nocerino stated. there appears to be a substantial amount of misinformation circulating and this Commission is determined to straighten this out. We appreciate the public and community comments, letters of support and emails expressing these concerns and the displeasure over what this Governor has been publicly expressing about this airport. Republic is a general aviation reliever airport and we are not supporting any terms that will change this status. No Governor, public official, any party will change our quality of life. This Commission will win this battle.

Mr. Michael Geiger, Airport Director, briefly described the Request for Proposal (RFP) Process. There is an RFP for a long term operator of Republic Airport. Currently there is a five (5) year contract, which has been extended. The State is looking for a forty (40) year commitment. At this time, all revenue at the airport stays at the airport which helps sustain airport expenses. The State is looking to change this aspect and make the operator responsible for these costs after ten (10) years. The

RFP also includes a Start Up NY component, These are tax free zones aligned with colleges and universities. This opportunity applies to new business and expanding business related to high tech, not retail. It provides a reduction in taxes or no taxes for ten (10) years. The property on Conklin Street is the primary focus of interest for Start Up.

There is no commercial service now and no inquiry has been made for commercial service operation at this time. Republic Airport is not able to support a large scale commercial service operation due to the limited size of the main ramp, parking lot and size of the main terminal facility. The due date for all proposals is May 4, 2015.

Commissioner Nocerino added that this Governor is looking to take businesses off the tax roles yet we need the taxes to support our communities. Commissioner Nocerino stated he will do everything within his power to attend Civic meetings to hear community concerns. Commissioner Nocerino stated that he, Commissioner Bodenmiller and Commissioner Bologna met with Town of Babylon Supervisor, Schafer to inform him what is going on at Republic Airport. In addition, they met with Senators Venditto and Boyle and will be meeting with others in the Long Island delegation to speak with them regarding these concerns and issues.

Commissioner Nocerino read a letter from Senators Venditto and Boyle stating their support of this Commissions' viewpoint against the privatization and large scale commercial service at Republic Airport.

Commissioner Nocerino read a second letter he wrote to Governor Cuomo expressing this Commissions' displeasure of the RFP, privatization and commercial service at Republic Airport.

Rev. Patty Furino of the Center for Differently Abled stated that she spoke to members of SEMO and FEMA in Albany to voice her displeasure to privatize Republic Airport and the seriousness of impeding future emergency services for the people of Long Island if this is not addressed immediately. Commissioner Nocerino asked her to forward copies of any letters, email or correspondence sent out on this matter so the Commission is aware of public concerns and issues that should be addressed. This Commission is working with you, Nocerino stated.

Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association said she and her civic members

went before the Town of Babylon and were met with silence. There were many promises made in the past and she has been involved in airport issues for over 50 years. Transfer legislation, curfews, noise abatements, all types of protection for the community were put in place and now seem to be ignored. The public is being told that large aircraft do not come here yet I see the large planes land here often. The sport teams, horses, large jets all come here.

Alyssa Taff of the Civic Association of Sweet Hollow stated this is similar to the Common Core problem. All misinterpreted and we are spending countless time and energy based on this Governor's words that even his staff is not even aware. He can say whatever he wants whether factual or not.

Tina Diamond of Concerned Citizens of Farmingdale stated that there is a meeting with NYSDOT and the Governor's office in Hauppauge. Will anyone from this Commission be there? Ms. Taff added that Scott Martello originally attended one of her civic meetings and lied to her about certain things. I invited every elected official to attend our next meeting.

An audience member spoke up to thank Newsday for reporting the information transpiring at Republic Airport. Without Newsday's article, nobody in the area would have known what is going on. Is the Governor aware that MacArthur Airport is severely under utilized and already offers commercial service? Why isn't the Governor supporting efforts for improvements there? Commissioner Nocerino responded that McArthur is not owned by the State of New York. It is run by the Town of Islip.

Ms. Diamond asked Mr. Geiger who he works for. Mr. Geiger responded that he works for NYSDOT. Commissioner Nocerino added that Ms. LaRose and Mr. Geiger have different roles at the airport. Commissioner Nocerino and this Commission have a different role here, too. Commissioner Nocerino expressed that the Commission is giving the attendees all the information he has in regard to this matter. He further stated, whatever else the community needs, please ask him.

Ms. Norjen requested a copy of the RFP. Mr. Geiger responded that it is on the NYSDOT website. Ms. Taff and Ms. Norjen both stated that they were not able to download the RFP after several attempts. Ms. Taff added that she has attended Melville economic meetings and there was never any mention about development or

any inquiry for this airport.

Ms. Barbera asked if the Hauppauge meeting mentioned earlier was a private meeting. Commissioner Nocerino responded that the meeting was by invitation only. Ms. Diamond added that the civics are invited to attend at 10:30 a.m. on a Monday, April 20th. She expressed her frustration with the inconvenient date and time stating it is difficult for most working people.

Commissioner Bodenmiller addressed the attendees to please be cognizant of sensitive questions asked of this management team currently operating here at Republic Airport. They are currently submitting their proposals to continue to manage this airport. In addition, if you wish to make a noise complaint, or if plane appears to be flying too low, please try to obtain the planes tail number. If it appears to be a commercial aircraft flying over your area, the plane most likely is not arriving or departing from this airport.

Commissioner Nocerino added that all inquires in regard to the RFP, privatization or commercial service should be directed to him. He asked that all inquires and comments be kept factual and not speculative. Credible information will be passed on to our elected officials so they can fight for us. If flagrant opinions and fear mongering comments are being presented and not factual in nature, any support will be met with hesitancy.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Due to lack of quorum, elections were postponed until next meeting.

III. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Due to lack of Quorum, the minutes from December 2014 and February 2015 were not adopted.

IV. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

One change to the agenda was made. The presentation of Noise and Operations report for 2014 was added.

V. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for January and February 2015 were discussed by Shelley LaRose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of January, the FAA recorded 10,810 total operations, a decrease from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 3,867 landings which were higher in all categories except jet operations. Touch and go operations increased from the prior year with a total of 1,329 reported. Passenger counts were higher from the previous year due to two different carriers providing services to Atlantic City. There were 473 based aircraft reported in January, which was the same amount as in December.

In February 2015, the FAA recorded 11,363 total operations, a decrease from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 3,934 landings, an increase in all categories except turboprop and jet operations. Touch & go's were higher with 1,450 reported. Passenger flights to Atlantic City increased from the previous year. There were 467 based aircraft in February, a decrease from the previous month.

There were three noise complaints reported in January, with one reported in daytime hours and two at night. All three complaints were associated to helicopters. Two were identified as based aircraft and 1 transient. There was a total of four noise complaints registered in February, a decrease from the previous year. They were related to jet aircraft. All three were identified as transient.

Mr. Geiger discussed the Financial Reports for the months of January and February 2015. In January, landing fees were up as a result of more activity. License fees were higher due to Customs services at the Main Terminal and the increase in Atlantic City flights. Rental income was lower in January since the concession rent check from the hotel did not

come in that month. Miscellaneous income was lower than anticipated since none were scheduled. Tiedowns were lower due to vacancies on the Echo and Alpha ramps. Expenses were lower due to postponement of radio equipment and the change in telephone service provider. Vehicle and Airport Maintenance expenses were lower due to an adequate inventory of supplies.

For the month of February, landing fees and license fees were higher. Fuel fees were lower. Rental fees were higher due to CPI adjustments for some tenants. Tiedowns were lower due to vacant spots on Echo and Alpha. Labor expenses were lower due to vacant staff positions that have since been filled. Revenue was higher than what was budgeted and expenses were lower due to cost saving efforts by the staff.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

March 31st was the Airport's Annual Airport Owner/Operator meeting. This was held in the Main Terminal Lobby. There was a good turnout with approximately 60-70 people in attendance. The FAA Air Traffic Control Tower Manager was available to answer most of the concerns. There was discussion about airport construction projects for 2015 and the RFP.

On May 24th and 25th, Bethpage Federal Credit Union will host the annual Memorial Day Air Show at Jones Beach. The Air Force Thunderbirds are the headline act. They will be based at Islip however all other aircraft performers will be based at Republic.

B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS

1. Breslau Modernization and Redevelopment Update: The SEQRA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/ NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) hearing is complete. Mr. Geiger stated he hoped the final report would have been available by this evening and commented, hopefully by next month.

2. Talon Air fuel tanks are installed and they are working on the dispensing. Infrastructure which is part of the criteria that needs to be met to become an FBO and achieve FBO status.
3. Northeastern FBO application is still in the paperwork stages.
4. The Governor's Initiative to Modernize NY Airports and the RFP were previously discussed.
5. This item was not on the agenda and is being added: Operations and Noise and Operations Statistics Summary for 2014. Airport Assistant Manager, John Arancio, presented an in-depth summary of the 2014 Noise and Operations Statistics, in a Power Point presentation.

Commissioner Flaumenbaum inquired as to the increase in jet operations if there is a breakdown of Stage 1 and Stage 2. Commissioner Barbera also inquired if Stage 2 is being phased out on a voluntary basis. Mr. Arancio responded that there is a modification hush kit available and it is mandatory for all stage 2 aircraft that continue to operate. This modification meets Stage 3 sound level regulations.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Six (6) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously. The next Meeting is June 9th at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**Michael Geiger on behalf of Executive Secretary
Republic Airport Commission**

PUBLIC COMMENT
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
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Mr. John Lisi, President of the Daniel Street Civic Association introduced himself and fellow members of his group. He expressed his pleasure in hearing all the comments made by this Commission. He thanked Newsday for reporting on this matter and informing the community of the events here at the airport. Mr. Lisi thanked Senators Venditto and Boyle for their encouraging words of support in keeping the communities quality of life and well being of the residents surrounding this airport. He also offers his support to stand united with the Commission.

Ms. Helen Norjen of Woodland Civic Association thanked the Commission for standing beside the community and constituents. Ms. Norjen requested that the agenda be corrected to reflect the correct date of April 14, 2015, not 2016. Ms. Norjen requested a copy of the Power Point presentation. Ms. LaRose handed her a printed copy.

Ms. Norjen expressed her concern that the Commission also address the fact that the plume under this airport could be worse than originally thought. The Grumman plume in Bethpage has expanded and that testing must be done here at Republic Airport. The plume is heading south affecting wells along the way. The Great South Bay can be jeopardized.

Ms. Norjen stated that years ago she was shown actual live flight paths over the Plainview area. She requested a copy of an updated flight path, even if it is available on the internet. Mr. Geiger responded that he believes the program for the flight paths is called PASSUR.

Ms. Norjen inquired if the tax-free issue (part of this proposal) would really be a tax-free shifting thereby putting the burden on property owning taxpayers in the community. Commissioner Nocerino agreed and explained that Commissioner Bodenmiller had explained this at the previous the Commission meeting. Bodenmiller added, current business already in existence that have been paying taxes all along would still be responsible to pay taxes while new, competing businesses would not. This is not a fair deal for current businesses owners who live and work on Long Island.

Ms. Norjen inquired to the reactions and concerns of the pilots, owners and operators during the March meeting. Mr. Geiger responded that few expressed concerns about the RFP and the possibilities. Others spoke about their air traffic concerns.

Ms. Norjen mentioned that the Noise Complaint presentation was not on tonight's agenda. Ms. Norjen also requested that a phone number to call in noise complaints be placed on the agenda meeting notice that go out. Commissioner Nocerino responded that the number is on the website and they will make it available.

Ms. Norjen reminded the Commission that the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) that was given out at the Request For Information (RFI) in December had shown Talon Fuel tanks on the plan that was dated 2013. The report at the April 2014 meeting with this Commission along with the letters sent to Senators made no mention of this. She inquired how that could be. The Environmental Impact Statement Report, after all these years, segmented out these fuel tanks. The report will be released without the public being able to comment on the fuel tanks and does not sit well.

Mr. Geiger explained that Talon prepared the Environmental Assessment for the fuel farm. As part of that submission an updated Airport Layout Plan was submitted indicating where the tanks would be located. This submission did not approve the project.

Commissioner Nocerino added that this Commission was never made aware of the Talon project and some of the items were never disclosed. Talon's FBO status is still pending NYSDOT approval. Ms. Norjen then read from a document about environmental impact statement concerns for 2013-2014 EIS. Commissioner Nocerino responded that there are some fights this Commission can fight and some that are beyond their reach. The Commission is looking into everything that comes across their desk. Ms. Norjen expressed her concern over how many things here have been done incorrectly and behind our backs.

Ms. Norjen inquired if there was a change to the Instrument Landing System (ILS). Mr. Geiger responded, "No." Commissioner Bodenmiller requested clarification as there seems to be some confusion over this matter. Mr. Geiger explained that the minimum altitude was changed years ago, not the ILS. Commissioner Bodenmiller added that this change in minimum was at the discretion of the FAA, not the airport. John Arancio added that the FAA changed the minimum altitude but that does not change the flight pattern. Commissioner Bodenmiller added that overflights, aircraft that fly over our airspace that are not arriving or departing from Republic Airport, are not in our control. These could be flying to Islip, LaGuardia or Kennedy but are flying at lower altitudes.

Commissioner Bodenmiller wanted to address Ms. Norjen's comment on the shift in taxes. Commissioner Bodenmiller has researched thoroughly the Start Up New York program and has

expressed that the program is not working as it should. He stated that according to a recent Newsday article, Start Up New York had a net gain of 79 jobs and expenditures of \$25 million dollars. There has been little to no benefit to anyone with this program. This Commission has addressed our legislatures and expressed our concerns about business issues. Commissioner Bodenmiller went on to state that although he is not an economist, he is a concerned taxpayer, just like everyone here tonight. Start Up NY requires the structure to be set up on college and university property. There is already various structures available in the Town of Oyster Bay and in the Town of Huntington. Although we have voiced our concerns over this, the Commissioners here are only a tiny speck of influence.

Ms. Norjen stated that 20 years ago she “whispered in the ear” that all the wealthy retirees moved out of New York State many years ago. Other states have and continue to benefit from these transplanted New Yorkers. Nobody stays on Long Island or within the State when they retire. This does not encourage people to stay and the state does not benefit from any of this.

Ms. Taff added that the State has given Canon – a 3 billion dollar company – tax free incentive to stay on Long Island. Canon does not help the local economy in any way. There is tax free housing and the State is calling this ownership! These “home-owners” are not paying into the school district, fire departments, police protection or any other services in our town. Everyone else is paying to support these ridiculous tax-free programs.

Commissioner Bodenmiller expressed that they reach out to their local representatives. This Commission can fight the fight but they are only five people. Ms. Taff stated that her community does fight but are beaten down by national organizations with more funding and more time. The community may win on zoning issues but on huge matters like this one, the political contributions are too big to fight.

Ms. Norjen urged the Commission to please spread the word that this tax free nonsense hurts everyone. Commissioner Nocerino agreed.

Reverend Furino inquired where County Executive Bellone stood on this issue. Commissioner Nocerino replied that the Commission is meeting with Senators first and will be going out from there. This is a monumental task for just five volunteers and community support and involvement would benefit everyone here.

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