

**MINUTES**  
**REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 9, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Nocerino at 7:07 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Stella Barbera, Vincent Bologna, Jr., and Richard Grant. Mr. Robert Bodenmiller and Ms. Joan Flaumenbaum were unable to attend. Mr. Gary DeVito attended on behalf of NYSDOT.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Because a quorum was not present, the minutes for August and October 2019 were not adopted.

**III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

No changes.

Chairman Nocerino stated that NYSDOT was close to announcing the new Airport Director. He said he had not yet received a response to his letter to NYSDOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, but did receive a response from Evelyn Martinez, Manager of FAA NYADO to his letter from August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Chairman Nocerino said copies of the response would be available to anyone requesting it.

**IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. REPORTS**

**1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT, & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2019**

Airport Manager Mr. John Lauth discussed the Operations and Aircraft Complaint Reports for September and October 2019. In the month of September, the FAA reported 11,877 total operations, compared to 15,739 in 2018. The Airport

Operations Department reported 7,964 landings. Total Touch & Go operations for September were 2,971, an increase of 994 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were lower with 1,075 being reported, a decrease of 109 from the previous year. There were 402 based aircraft in September, a decrease of 8 from the previous year.

In October 2019, the FAA reported 8,939 total operations, compared to 16,665 in 2018. The Airport Operations Department reported 6,268 landings. There were 2,266 Touch & Go operations in October, an increase of 137 from the previous year. Passenger numbers were reported as 1,004, a decrease of 35 from the previous year. There were 403 based aircraft in October, a decrease of 15 from the previous year.

There were 26 total noise complaints registered in September 2019 compared to 37 the previous year. The majority of the complaints were related to daytime operations. Twelve complaints were attributed to multi or single engine aircraft, 4 related to helicopter operations, 3 related to jet aircraft, and 6 were from an unknown aircraft type. Residents in the northwest sector of the Airport reported 24 of the 26 total noise complaints. Ten complaints related to Touch & Go operations on Runway 32. Six could not be identified by runway and were reported as “unknown”. Thirteen complaints were attributed to transient aircraft, 7 to based aircraft, and 6 were unknown.

In October 2019, there were 21 noise complaints registered, compared to 29 the previous year. Fifteen of the total complaints were related to daytime operations. Eight complaints were attributed to jet aircraft, 3 complaints related to helicopter operations, 2 from multi or single engine aircraft, and 8 could not be identified by aircraft type and were reported as “unknown”. Twenty of the 21 total noise complaints were from residents living near the northwest sector of the Airport. Five complaints were attributed to arrivals on Runway 14, three were from Touch & Go operations on Runway 14, and 8 complaints could not be identified by runway. Ten complaints were attributed to transient aircraft, 3 to based aircraft, and 8 were unknown.

Mr. Lauth read the Financial Reports for September and October 2019. In September, there was a favorable variance in revenue from Landing Fees due to a higher than forecasted number of landings. Miscellaneous Income showed the largest unfavorable variance due to lower than anticipated film shoot revenue. September saw a favorable variance in Labor Expense due to vacant positions for Assistant Airport Manager and a Senior Operations Coordinator. Airport Maintenance Expense also had a favorable variance due to postponing a joint seal project and a purchase of aero paint and beads.

In October, there were favorable revenue variances from Landing Fees and Fuel Flowage Fees. Miscellaneous Income showed the largest variance due receiving higher than anticipated film shoot revenue. Under expenses, there was an unfavorable variance in Labor Expense for overtime paid to Operations personnel, and Janitorial Expense was higher than budgeted due to carpet cleaning at the Main Terminal. Airport Maintenance Expense showed the largest favorable variance due to postponing some projects to a later date.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

Mr. Lauth reported that there were film shoots in October for a movie called “Marry Me” and for the TV show “Madame Secretary”. In November, there were film shoots for “Blue Bloods”, “Manifest”, and for an independent film production company. Film shoots are scheduled in December for “Billions” and “The Good Fight”.

**B. OTHER NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUSINESS**

1. Runway 1-19 Safety Area Improvements: Airport Manager John Lauth reported that the process is ongoing, and that the Airport and NYSDOT have met with owners of properties adjacent to the Airport to discuss plans to mitigate obstructions to the runway. Expected start date of the project is late Spring or early Summer of 2020.
2. Northeastern Aviation FBO Application: No changes.

3. Sheltair Development in Breslau Area: Mr. Lauth stated that work is progressing with construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> hangar, and they are clearing another area of their leasehold to prepare for further development of the property.
4. Salt & Sand Storage Structure: Mr. Lauth reported that construction of the Snow and Ice Control Material Storage structure would start within a week. A pre-construction meeting will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> to review safety procedures for the project.
5. NY State Infrastructure Grant for \$1.5M / Entrance Roads: Mr. Lauth stated that the paving and re-striping of the entrance roads from Routes 109 and 110 was completed in November. The installation of car bollards still needs will be done to complete the project.
6. Five Parcel Development Project: No changes.

Chairman Nocerino asked Mr. Lauth if a parking spot on Echo ramp was opened to re-install the wash rack for Echo tenants. Mr. Lauth replied that Operations personnel removed the aircraft that was parked in the spot, however as part of normal procedures, the wash rack has since been closed for the winter season. He said that Operations personnel will ensure that the spot will not be occupied by any aircraft in the future so that Echo tenants will have access to the wash rack.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Five (5) individuals commented.

Chairman Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

**NYSDOT on behalf of Executive Secretary**

**Republic Airport Commission**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

### **REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION**

**December 9, 2019**

Ms. Nancy Schliwka, of the Woodland Civic Association, asked to know the purpose of a Touch & Go operation. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that a Touch & Go is a training exercise that student pilots perform to familiarize themselves with takeoff and landing procedures. He said a Touch & Go involves the plane touching down briefly on the runway then immediately taking off again, and it allows students to practice the most critical parts of flying.

Mr. Mario Espinosa of the Farmingdale Board of Education asked for a clarification of an “Unknown” noise complaint. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that noise complaint messages received by the Airport may not always provide all the details needed to identify an aircraft. To investigate a noise complaint, it helps to have the type of aircraft, the date and time of day, the direction the aircraft is traveling, and other relevant details. He said having as much data as possible makes it easier to identify the aircraft and its operations at the time of the noise event. Mr. Lauth said that if there is not enough information to identify the aircraft, it is categorized as “unknown”.

Ms. Helen Norjen, of the Woodland Civic Association, commented that Pen & Ink changes to the 1989 ALP are supposed to be done for small revisions only, and that the planned development of the 5 parcels is not a small revision. Chairman Nocerino said a copy of the response letter from Evelyn Martinez, Manager of FAA NYADO, would be sent to NYSDOT Executive Deputy Commissioner Ron Epstein. Ms. Norjen asked if there was a limit on the time between the conditional awarding of the 5 parcels and the start of the project. Chairman Nocerino replied there was not. Ms. Norjen commented that NYSDOT does not seem to be concerned about the vacant buildings on Conklin Street and their potential to contaminate the ground water in the surrounding area. Airport Manager John Lauth replied that he contacted the State’s Aviation Bureau and informed them that the community wanted to know when NYSDOT would address the situation. He said that the State has always been concerned about the issue and he is waiting for their response about the time frame. Mr. Lauth added that 2 weeks earlier, the State performed a metering for contamination on the Airport, and that metering takes place once or twice each year. He said the Airport requested notification of the metering results when they become available. Ms. Norjen stated that the area located southeast of the Airport also needs to be monitored for contamination.

Ms. Nancy Cypser, of the Woodland Civic Association, asked on behalf of John Lisi, President of the Daniel Street Civic Association who was not present, if any progress was made to fill the Republic Airport Commission vacancies. Chairman Nocerino said that topic would be part of the meeting he plans to have with NYSDOT Commissioner Dominguez.

Ms. Jessica Santangelo, a Farmingdale resident, said she received information from New York State that she requested through the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) process. She said she requested copies of minutes from previous RAC meetings and a copy of Stratosphere's current lease for the area where Republic Jet Center's temporary FBO is located. She invited meeting attendees to contact her if they would like to have access to the information, and that she planned to post the information on her website. Chairman Nocerino asked for a copy of the information.

Ms. Santangelo asked to know how soon the Airport planned to notify affected residents on the start of the RSA 1/19 Improvements project and the timeline for its completion. Airport Manager John Lauth responded that he would find out the notification timeline, but most likely it would be at least 3 months prior to the start of the project. He added that the project should be completed in less than a year, depending on seasonal conditions. Ms. Santangelo asked to know how the affected residents would be notified of the Runway 1/19 closure and the increased traffic on Runway 14/32. Mr. Lauth replied that notifications are typically published in local newspapers and can be made available at local public libraries. Mr. Lauth emphasized that the Airport will continue to be diligent in making pilots aware of recommended noise abatement procedures to help minimize the noise impact during the project's construction.