

MINUTES
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Frank Nocerino at 7:06 p.m. Also present were Republic Airport Commission Members Vincent Bologna, Jr., Robert Bodenmiller and Stella Barbera. Richard Grant and Joan Flaumenbaum were absent.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Geiger announced that Al Parisi of the Air Force Association and former Lt. Colonel of the Air Force past away. He was 80 years old. Michael Montelione a WWII Veteran of Pearl Harbor, passed away at the age of 95 on December 6th. He would have been one of the four Pearl Harbor survivors who would be recognized at the Pearl Harbor event held at the American Airpower Museum on December 7th.

Commission Chairman, Frank Nocerino announced that he has been in contact with Senator Michael Venditto in regard to the Governor's announcement about the possible commercial service at this airport. They spoke as late as yesterday and the Senator had asked him to make an announcement on the Senator's behalf. Commissioner Nocerino and Senator Venditto were not aware of the Governor's statement regarding privatization or commercial service at Republic Airport. Senator Venditto confirmed he will not proceed in any action and wants to assure everyone here that he is not moving forward on this issue without community support. Quality of life in and around this community is very important to the Senator.

Commissioner Nocerino stated that he will be setting up a meeting with the new assemblymember to discuss this matter. This Commission is taking the Governor's remarks and statements very seriously. Each Commissioner member lives in close proximity to Republic Airport and shares its concerns.

Tina Diamond of Concerned Citizen Association of Farmingdale (CCAF) stated that it would be very easy to commercialize this airport if a private operator did come in. Commissioner Nocerino explained that this Commission is aware of these concerns

and will stay on top of any information that pertains to this matter.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Due to the lack of a quorum the Commission was unable to adopt the minutes from the December 2014 meeting.

III. CHANGES AND/OR ADOPTION OF AGENDA

No changes and/or adoption of the agenda were made.

IV. REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, & OTHER BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

1. OPERATIONS, AIRCRAFT COMPLAINT & FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013

The Operations and Noise Complaint Reports for November and December 2014 were discussed by Ms. Shelley Larose-Arken, Airport Manager. In the month of November, the FAA recorded 15,424 total operations, a decrease of 1,034 from last year. The Airport Operations Department reported 3,066 landings which were down in all categories except in jet and helicopter operations. Touch and go operations for November were down from last year, a total of 442 operations were reported. Passenger count was higher with 1,171 reported, an increase of 63 from last year. A total of 471 based aircraft were reported. An audit of based aircraft completed earlier showed that several aircraft left the airport without being counted.

In December 2014, the FAA recorded 13,306 total operations, a decrease of 654 from the previous year. The Airport Operations Department reported 4,170 landings, with an increase in all categories. Touch and go's were higher in all categories, except single engine and jet operations. Passenger totals were 824, only slightly lower than the previous year. A new charter company began operating to Atlantic City in January. Based

aircraft totals reported were 473, an increase of two. Commissioner Barbera inquired if Gold Transportation is still operating at Republic Airport. Ms. LaRose-Arken responded that Gold Transportation ceased operations at Republic as of December 31st. Charter Air is now providing service to Harrah's and Caesars. Ultimate Jet Charter will be operating for Borgotta to Atlantic City.

There were a total of 13 noise complaints registered in November, a decrease from last year; 11 were reported at night and two unknown. Jet aircraft attributed to the 11 complaints. Five complaints were from based aircraft and six from transient aircraft.

There were two noise complaints registered in December, a decrease of from the previous year. They were recorded as daytime, jet traffic and were attributed to transient aircraft.

Mr. Geiger discussed the Financial Reports for the months of November and December 2014. Rental income was up due to Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment for lease properties on the airport. Tiedowns were lower due to vacant spots. Labor expenses were lower due to vacant positions that have since been filled. Employee expenses were higher due to training requirements. Data processing expense were higher than anticipated due to software maintenance that was scheduled for the summer and was postponed until November. Communication expenses were down as a result of postponement of radio purchases and the new phone provider being less expensive than our previous carrier. Airport maintenance was down as a result of fewer hits around the perimeter of the airport.

In December, landings, fuel flowage and licensing fees were higher. Customs flights increased at the Main Terminal during this time. Rental fees were higher due to the CPI adjustment. Labor was lower due to vacant positions. Employee expenses were higher due to uniform cleaning and new personnel HR processing. Overall, revenue is up due to rental adjustments, budgeting and operating at a savings. The restaurant property is still vacant.

2. RECENT/CURRENT EVENTS

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day Dropping of the Roses Ceremony was held. It was well attended with three survivors participating in the event.

On February 24th, Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) will be having a meeting with Air Traffic Control, pilots and tenants.

March 31st is the Annual Aircraft Owner and Operator Meeting.

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). The FAA has almost completed the review of the documents including air and noise quality. They are satisfied and will be adjusting the document. The final should be out in a few weeks.
2. Talon Air FBO Application: The application is moving ahead. Talon is working to meet all minimum standards to become an FBO. No approval of FBO status has been issued.
3. Northeastern FBO Application: The application is still under review with NYSDOT legal department. No approval of FBO status has been issued. There are still some outstanding items to be addressed.
4. Governor's Initiative 2015 Request For Information: Proposals were submitted on January 30th. We do not know how many were submitted.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three (3) individuals commented.

Mr. Nocerino adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by:

Michael Geiger on behalf of the Executive Secretary

Republic Airport Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT
REPUBLIC AIRPORT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Ms. Helen Norjen of the Woodland Civic Association asked the Commission to write to the Governor and ask him where is he getting his information from. Ms. Norjen acknowledged that Stew Leonard's is coming to the area therefore we do not need any more tax free zones. The college, the cemeteries in addition to what is already here is enough. Anymore tax free business will crush us.

Ms. Norjen referred to the 1982 Transfer Legislation which was created by this Commission and urged the Governor to review it. There are legal things that took place and are part of the document. She finds it very hard to believe that a Governor can do whatever he wishes here. She states that PILOT language is in the Transfer Legislation. There is a 60,000 pound weight limit that was specifically intended for this airport. She wonders how the general aviation aircraft pilots and owners will respond to what is happening here. It is frightening.

Commissioner Nocerino responded that it has been four (4) days since the article regarding the Governor's statement about commercialization came out. We all must stay close to our legislators.

Ms. Norjen stated that Republic is barley 500 acres. Islip is over 1250 and that airport is struggling to keep their commercial services operating. None of this makes any sense. In addition, the Transfer Legislation is very specific to PILOT. We must go back to this legislation.

Ms. Norjen inquired about the status of the plume at Republic Airport. It must be looked at carefully to ensure it has not migrated in any direction or affected any private wells. Commissioner Nocerino responded that nothing has been brought to this Commission's attention about the status of cleanup. Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for monitoring.

Ms. Norjen stated that she attended the RFI meeting and was handed an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) with clearly indicated Talon's fuel farm. This document was dated November 2013. Back in 2014, this Commission stated that no decision had been made in regard to Talon and their expansion. How did this image show up on this ALP document if nobody knew about it?

The ALP is dated November 2013 and the Commission met with her (NYSDOT Commissioner, Joan McDonald) in April 2014.

Ms. Norjen stated she sent Commissioner Nocerino a copy of the letter she sent to NYSDOT. She doesn't know where the Governor is getting his information from. The RFI has a different acreage number listed. Aeronautical uses and aviation compatible uses – there is a difference. They are not aviation uses but compatible.

Commissioner Nocerino asked Ms. Norjen if she received a response from her letter to NYSDOT. Ms. Norjen said she did not, but they did acknowledge delivery since she sent it certified mail, return receipt. Commissioner Nocerino asked if she does receive a response to please let him know. Ms. Norjen agreed and further stated that she is happy to hear that this Commission is in agreement with her on this serious topic.

Rev. Patty Furino of the Center for the Differently Abled stated that she has been attending these meetings for the better part of five (5) years and has been interested in the development of the abandoned property on Conklin Avenue. She has worked with and supported emergency services over the past few years and recognizes the important role Republic Airport serves in an emergency situation and as a central point of contact for all of Long Island. Rev. Furino stated that she has patiently waited five (5) years for the RFI to come out for this property. She contributed to the Vision Plan about the need to keep Republic Airport as a central location for disaster services. Rev. Furino stated she has complete confidence in this Commission and the communication they have provided from past experiences. Rev. Furino does not want the emergency services aspect to be forgotten and how imperative it is to our area. The Governor held a press conference at this airport immediately following Superstorm Sandy where he clearly stated he would support Long Island.

Rev. Furino inquired if a new operator is selected for the airport, will that affect the current staff already at the airport. Commissioner Nocerino responded, "Quite possibly." Rev. Furino offered her assistance to make sure this does not happen.

Commissioner Barbera stated that although there is no quorum this evening and we are unable to do official business, this Commission has been appointed by government officials and we must write to remind them that we are here and this Commission exists. We have a job to do or else this Commission should be dissolved.

Nancy Schliwka stated she sent an email to Al Hasenkopf at NYSDOT on December 19th and has never received a response. Mr. Geiger said he would look into that. Commissioner Nocerino requested a copy of the email. Commissioner Barbera inquired if the Commission could write letters as well. Commissioner Nocerino explained that without a quorum this evening, we cannot. Commissioner Bodenmiller added that although the Commission cannot write at this time, members of this audience can.

Commissioner Bodenmiller asked Ms. Norjen if she knew who had the authority to approve the ALP she received. She said she received it at the RFI meeting.

Commissioner Bodenmiller addressed Rev. Furino and stated that any organization dealing with disabled people and children will have great support from politicians. He encouraged her to follow up with her local representatives. Rev. Furino responded that she was patiently waiting for the Vision Plan to be finalized before going further. After five years, it's obvious this is not going to happen. She will press forward now.

Commissioner Nocerino encouraged all attending to contact their Senators as a group or individually, and express feelings and concerns about these topics. He asked attendees to send a copy of those letters to the Governor and to the commission. He further stated community support is very important and this is the time to act. There is a lot of work to do. We as a community are not in agreement with this Governor's proposal.

Ms. Norjen wanted to make sure this will be addressed at the up coming pilot meeting. Commissioner Nocerino assured her it would be made known. Ms. Norjen added this affects the entire community in addition to the aviation community. Our school districts will be affected, Mr. Nocerino said. Their support is needed now. Ms. Norjen wanted to know what SUNY Farmingdale thought about this concept. Rev. Furino inquired if Supervisor Schafer and County Executive Bellone were aware. Commissioner Nocerino responded that this Commission will work diligently in making sure the quality of life in our community is not affected. This is not about politics. Commissioner Nocerino asked to please send copies of any letters to his attention. They can be mailed to Republic Airport or sent by email to info@republicairport.net.

Ms. Diamond stated that this is not just about expansion at Republic Airport. The Governor is looking to bring more business to the 110 corridor. We need big business on Long Island. We need jobs here. Cannon was given everything and they came. There are several empty buildings and Long Island needs revenue. Commissioner Nocerino added that Stew Leonard's is not part

of the tax free incentive.

Commissioner Bodenmiller added that the best way to contact local representatives is by mail. They are required to open each letter received. He also suggested to follow up with a phone call and make an appointment to meet with them. Use all sources of communication, not just one. Mail, email, fax and call. In addition, if businesses come here and don't pay taxes to the municipalities for services, the homeowner will shoulder the expense. Your fire department, schools and libraries will all be affected. There is no right or wrong answer here.

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