

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON THE AIRPORT
DATE: AUGUST 11, 2020
TIME: 7:03 P.M.
PLACE: HELD REMOTELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR
OF MASSACHUSETTS' MARCH 12, 2020 ORDER SUSPENDING
CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW G. L.
C. 30A, SECTION 20 AND THE CITY COUNCIL'S VOTE TO
WAIVE RULE 21A

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS WILLIAM BRAD MARKEY, CHAIRMAN;
MARIA GIESTA, VICE CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY;
BRIAN GOMES

ABSENT: COUNCILLOR LINDA MORAD

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Councillor Markey called the Airport Committee Meeting to order and took attendance; the only absence was Councillor Linda Morad.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Markey, requesting Scot Servis, Airport Director to attend the next Special Committee on the Airport meeting to give the Committee a briefing on the Airport (To be Referred to the Special Committee on the Airport.) (Ref'd 6/25/2020) was received and placed on file by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Carney. (1)

Scot Servais, Airport Director, was present to provide the Committee with an update on the Airport. He stated that COVID-19 has resulted in a reduction of service this year. They are just now starting to get back to normal. Jet traffic is up. Back in February they initiated a rate increase at the Airport, and this has helped them to sustain themselves; they are now collecting 15 to 20 thousand dollars per month.

The budget is lower for FY 2020, because of events, they have an approximate \$9,000 in savings, with a few outstanding items that need to be paid for. They are still working with Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School; the school wants to start an airplane repair and engineering program. Bridgewater State University is still on site and continuing to look to expanding their campus on airport property, they are currently seeking out grants to complete the project.

The Airport Commission is revisiting their fees for leasing property. They are looking at similar airports in the area to see if they are competitive in price. They have had new construction inquiries, and a developer is in the works for building 10 new box hangars. They have submitted a CIP plan with the State and the FAA for improvements at the airport.

FY 2022 will remain the same. FY 2023 terminal designs will be looked at. FY 2024 rehab of the terminal building. FY 2025 taxi way at Bravo NW to 1422 apron work will be done. Projects if approved will be funded 100% by the FAA.

A new air way just signed a short-term lease and is looking to sign a long-term one. Southern Airway Express will provide season flights from New Bedford to Nantucket.

Councillor Gomes asked what portion of the costs will fall to the city on the proposed improvements, he was told none. He expressed his concern about the condition of the parking areas, they are badly in need of repair and maintenance. He was told that currently with the budget the airport has, they do not have the funds to address the parking lot areas; but that it is on their list. They do hope to receive FAA funds to repair the airport roads.

Councillor Giesta asked for more information on the Voc-Tech proposal and she was told the school is looking to repair an older airport hangar and start an airplane maintenance program. She suggested that the airport also reach out to New Bedford High School to see if they have any interest and Mr. Servis said he has plans to.

Councillor Gomes asked why Southern Air had a short-term lease and not a long-term lease. He was told that the process to execute a long-term lease is cumbersome, that the short-term lease was the fastest way to get them up and running while the city works out the details on executing a long-term lease. Councillor Gomes also expressed his frustration about the airport signage that he has been asking about for years that they be repaired and relit. He was told the airport did not have the funds.

Councillor Markey suggested that when the airport leases are up with the companies and entities that a fee be added to fix and maintain the signage in the future. Mr. Servis thought this was a good idea and worth looking into. Councillor Markey also asked if there is enough business to keep two airlines in business and Mr. Servis stated that before Southern Air came on board, Cape Air was the only company and their pricing has slowed down travel numbers, he is hoping this will create a price competition for flights.

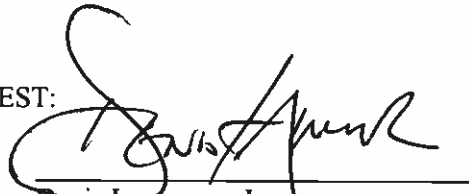
Councillor Gomes asked if the empty positions on the Commission is affecting quorums and he was told no, because the Committee now operates on the majority rules and they have added a new member to the Commission so it is not an issue.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Giesta, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for ninety (90) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Gomes made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Giesta.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:41 p.m.

ATTEST:



Denis Lawrence, Jr.,
Clerk of Committees