

AIRPORTS COMMISSION MEETING

March 12, 2025

9:00AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jamie Gustafson (Chairperson), Kyle Crandall, John Shedd, Phil Landy, Nathan Stock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Churchill, Greg Jones

GUESTS: Shannon Fischer (Manager of Airports), Brian Bates (Asst. Manager of Airports), Nikki Adams (Administrative Aide), Tim Card (Director of DPF), PJ Wendel (County Executive), Mike Kirchoff (Centric Aviation), Brian Chase (Chase Aviation), Sue and John (Penn Border, LLC), Greg Bernhard (Tenant at DKK), Randy Elf

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:04am by Commission Chair, Jamie Gustafson.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Motion made by Kyle Crandall, Second by John Shedd – all in favor, none opposed

PRESENTATION BY NYSERDA RE SOLAR PROJECT AT DKK

Gillian Black, Director of Build Ready gave a presentation with regard to the potential solar project at DKK with 2 of his associates. At the beginning of the presentation, everything appeared to be very promising as the impression was that NYSERDA would be the “owner” of the project and oversee the de-commissioning of the project, etc....however after they started to go into more detail, it was shared that NYSERDA would be overseeing the project for 7 years then as with all other solar projects, companies would bid the project out to find a new “owner” which leaves a lot of questions:

1. Once NYSERDA steps out of the project, what is the guarantee that the County will continue getting the lease payments? *NYSERDA would put out a Request For Proposal and choose the most fitting company. There would be a lease written up guaranteeing the County would continue to get their lease payments. There will also be a bond in place.*
2. When the de-commissioning time comes, who will be responsible for ensuring the land is put back to its original state pre-project, the DEC or the municipality? Gillian believes it will be the municipality. Chairperson Gustafson voiced her concern that any de-commissioning plan put in place

NEEDS to have the DEC involved because there is no guarantee whatsoever that there will be no environmental damage to the land

County Executive Wendel shared his opinion with the group and although he is in full support of nuclear energy, he is disappointed in what NYSERDA brought to the table and at this time, he does not feel comfortable moving forward with the project. Others in the Commission echoed his concerns and at this time made the decision to not move forward with the project

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

- NONE

AIRPORT MANAGERS REPORT

Financial Posture

- 15% of budget through 1/31/2025 – \$81,564.08 of \$1,233,081.00 (lower – 16%)

FBO Flowage

- Fuel flowage is down at JHW over 2024 and up at DKK

Regulatory Compliance

- ARFF Testing Equipment – after the successful installation, our maintenance team did the first test on it and the results were sent to the FAA. They will need to do one more test prior to the FAA Inspection and moving forward will do the test twice per year to stay in compliance

Grants

- NYS – All grants were submitted. We put in for Hangar L Renovation. NYS grants are for 5 years
- FAA – ACIPS – submitted. Taxiway A West at DKK, Guidance Signs Construction, Apron Design, 13-31 Design at JHW

Resolutions

February

- 1 year lease with Basil & Bones approved. We have reached out to the owners to get an idea of their intentions moving forward with regarding to opening, etc....the new Lease will take effect April 1, 2025.

- Potential future resolutions:
 - Paige Development and Severe Clear, Inc lease amendments – both tenants are in agreement with what the County proposed regarding the painting project they brought to us which is to have them pay for the project in its entirety and give them rent credit for the County’s portion of the project cost. Revised contracts are being created by Legal for tenant review.
 - FAA lease renewal OR new lease – Nikki reached out to the representative from the FAA to get a status update on the new lease draft. She is waiting to hear back.

Business Development

- *Hangar A (Luscombe)* – Auction is complete. CONTENTS sold for lower than anticipated (\$160K) to a North Carolina business owner who currently has an Aircraft Production company. We will be putting out an RFP for him or others to bid on. He has shown an interest in possibly “adding” to his current business down south and open a second location here. It will take 27 semi-trailers to haul what he has in the hangar currently should he decide to NOT open a business here. Will keep everyone updated.
- *Air Show Planning Committee* – At this time we are putting the show on hold at this time and will revisit in a few months.

Airports’ project status

- JHW
 - Air Service Recovery Program Study – Continues
 - Phase I complete
 - Phase II – Airline & DOT discussions – continued progress. Have met with a potential airline multiple times regarding the structure of their costs, etc....
 - EAS Funding Application and SCASD Applications have started – EAS will be mostly prepared in the next week. Waiting for full airline proposals and costs as we HAVE to apply with an airline. This does NOT mean we are locked in with that airline however. Once the EAS

application is submitted, the USDOT puts it out for open bidding for 30 days. This means ANY airline can bid on bringing their business to our airport. Dependent upon the outcome of the EAS application, the SCASD will be submitted for the appropriate funding (to help fund the air service return OR to be used for airline operations). One discussion had was to have our airport employees work with the airline regarding ticketing, bag transfers, turning over planes (cleaning them), etc....this will have to be a discussion for HR to get involved in so that it is all done legally within the confines of the union contracts.

- JHW Environmental Assessment of On/Off Airport Obstructions – FONSI issued – complete. The FAA asked that this project be divided into two projects/phases. Phase one will be ON airport design will begin at the same time as Off airport easement/appraisals. Shannon touched base on that part of the project a bit
- Phase I – Security Fence Project – 99.9999999% complete – Access control is the biggest issue at this point. Still waiting on CASCO to respond or work with new company County has to get training done on the badging system.
- Phase II – Security Fence Project – This will be closed out – punch list is complete
- Rehabilitation of Runway (post-accident) – weather is starting to become favorable. Final marking will be completed in spring when it's a bit warmer.
- Runway 13-31 Rehabilitation – design in progress, survey crew coming out next week (pilots will need to watch NOTAMS for closure)
- Terminal building rehabilitation – State/Federal – design in progress

- **DKK**

- Runway 06-24 Easement Acquisition/obstruction removal for approaches and RSA: Easement offers are prepared and will be sent this week to property owners who know they are coming. They will have ~30 days to counter. The negotiated amounts will be included in the grant application.
- Taxiway A (North) Rehabilitation – Design Phase – Preliminary design work in progress. No change

- Solar Feasibility study – Voted to not move forward by commission.

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

- **Special thanks to all the ‘guys’ for the hard work they have put in this winter. They have had 1 weekend off since thanksgiving. They have done the extra hours and for the most part keeping up on their maintenance responsibilities. As the good weather approaches, they are catching up on maintenance items that have been less of a priority.**
- JHW – snow and ice removal
- JHW – Hangar C – repair broken water lines
- JHW – Maintenance Shop – heat repair
- JHW – Light and Sign repairs
- DKK – Snow and ice removal
- DKK – Hangar 9 – heat repair
- DKK – heating repairs Hangar 6
- DKK – Preventative Maintenance – summer and snow equipment

AIRPORT OPERATIONS

- Shannon reviewed ADS-B recorded operations (combined arrivals and departures).
- Mike from Centric mentioned that the count for helicopters at JHW was inaccurate as they had over 20 military Apache helicopters fly in however, they may have “hidden” or not reported their tail numbers. They were flying in due to the corrections strike situation

OTHER BUSINESS

- Shannon shared with the group that she will be leaving the airport. Her last day will be March 19th. It was an emotional moment for her as well as everyone else. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone on the commission and will miss everyone. Chairperson Gustafson spoke to the group and said that they were very lucky to have Shannon here for the last 3 years, she’s done an excellent job, and she will be very missed. Other members of the commission and stake holders echoed her words. Everyone wished her well in her next venture.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- Nothing to share

STAKEHOLDERS’ UPDATES

- Centric Aviation – Mike shared Centric is hiring summer help both full and part time
- Chase Aviation – Brian shared that he is expanding his business from just Aviation sales to Aviation management. Shannon asked that he elaborate on his future plans at JHW. He has a new plane on site (a Pilatus) that will be housed in the Centric hangar. This winter was tough for him operationally due to 3 out of 6 trips being cancelled due to weather. He is in the process of hiring a part time, potentially full time pilot and is hoping within the next couple of years to expand to charter flights. He does not at this time have his charter license but would like to work toward that and also mentioned the possibility of working with JHW to become part of the EAS program. He is going to continue with Aviation Management with turbine aircraft. Shannon brought up his article in the paper, questioning if the return of commercial air service is worth it. Article did not help the airports image with the community, as a ‘rich mans playground’.
- Penn Border – New tenant/Stake Holder in the terminal. They are a fully mobile aircraft, FAA certified mechanic service. They are able to go to different airports, but are calling JHW their home.

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be held April 2, 2025.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:37am with motion by Phil Landy, 2nd by John Shedd. All in favor, none opposed.

From Shannon: THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL 3 YEARS!! We have 2 great airports in this County. Please continue to relay the value of both to our communities.