

The North Little Rock Airport Commission Meeting was held at noon on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in the NLR City Services Building Conference room A.

Chairman Mark Halter called the meeting to order.

The roll being called, the following Commissioners attended; Matt Chandler, Don Blakey, Brad Hughes, Jim Julian, Rick Ashley, Mark Halter. Mr. Hughes moves to excuse the absence of Toby Burkett, Mr. Chandler seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Julian moves to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Mr. Hughes seconds. The vote passes unanimously.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Rogers says nothing in particular to point out. It's all been standard income and bills paid. Revenue is coming in more than expected, and we are currently under budget. Mr. Julian asks about where we are on grant draws. Mr. Rogers says Stephanie in finance has taken the online training to do the draw with the new online system and is working on making the draw. While discussing the lights, Mr. Blakey brings up the broken rotating beacon. Mr. Rogers says they had put off repairing it because of the lighting rehab project, but now that is delayed, Mr. Rogers will have the beacon repaired. Mr. Julian moves to approve the financial report, Mr. Ashley seconds. The vote carries unanimously.

### **Old Business**

DC-3: Mr. Rogers says they have a month left on their extension. He says Harry Barrett tells him they are still making progress and hope to finish by the deadline.

### **New Business**

Thad Dippolito, Little Rock Air: Thad Dippolito is in attendance to discuss the proposal of operating a Part 141 flight school. Mr. Dippolito gives his background in aviation and flight instruction. He says he's been working with Pulaski Tech, who is interested in having a Part 141 at NLR. He says PT is behind him, and that they want to operate the classroom aspect of it and let Mr. Dippolito just handle the flight instruction side of it. But if they aren't able to do that, Mr. Dippolito needs a hangar at NLR to operate the classroom side of the instruction also. Mr. Blakey asks what specifically 141 is. Mr. Dippolito says you can get your license with fewer hours of flight time to get your private pilot's license. There are a lot more records he has to keep, and more oversight from the FAA, but with the classroom aspect you can get your license sooner. You are also able to get VA funding for students for a 141. Mr. Chandler asks what part of this benefits NLR. Mr. Dippolito says we'll have a part 141 school, a building that you can utilize after

he's gone, multi-engine services, and with that comes business. Mr. Blakey says we have two FBOs, and flight instruction is part of those requirements and worries it would take business away from them. Mr. Dippolito says if he does it through 141, his prices will be higher than the other options. He also says some people come to him to get basic certification, then go on to other flight training for higher ratings. Mr. Chandler asks if people that get trained at a part 65 will come to him rather than central flying service. Mr. Dippolito says that's the plan. Mr. Chandler asks where he'll buy gas, Mr. Dippolito says NLR. Mr. Blakey asks how many employees he'll have, Mr. Dippolito says he'll probably have 6 flight instructors. He has 3 aircraft right now, and will have 1 more within 2 weeks. He says his plains are all in great condition. Mr. Chandler asks where a new hangar would go. Mr. Rogers says they are looking right by the row of blue hangars to build. They need public access and a store front. Mr. Rogers says the plan would be to go after a state grant for the building. Mr. Hughes tells Mr. Chandler this is what he missed last meeting. Mr. Julian asks if we'll have to build parking as well. Mr. Rogers says it depends on where we're able to get it, and there are challenges to each location we've discussed. Mr. Julian asks how big he wants it. Mr. Dippolito says as big as he can fit one in. He'd like all 3 planes to fit, but might not be able to fit it in. Mr. Blakey addresses the concern of congestion in that location. There is only one way in, one way out. Mr. Roberson from Garver shows on the map what the potential congestion would be. Mr. Halter asks if he would be willing to personally guarantee the lease, Mr. Dippolito says yes. Mr. Hughes asks if there are any other possible locations. Mr. Roberson says it's tricky because they need land side access. Mr. Hughes asks about the spot near Harry Barrett. Mr. Chandler says we could build it there and build it big enough to act as a true FBO at some point. Mr. Ashley asks if he'll have class rooms, or if that will be at Pulaski Tech. Mr. Dippolito says it depends on what gets worked out with PT. Mr. Halter asks if he has personal financial statements he'd be willing to give us. Mr. Dippolito says he does. He says he's keeping his planes in a Canino hangar in the mean time. Mr. Blakey says if he can get a letter of support from PT that would be great. Mr. Halter thinks they all agree to this on principle, just asks that Mr. Dippolito keep Mr. Rogers posted.

Lease extension for Dennis Thomas: Mr. Rogers says they agreed at the August meeting to give Mr. Thomas a one year extension, and have a year-to-year lease that can be canceled by either party at the end of the term. Mr. Rogers just needs the addendum written up by Ms. Jones. Mr. Halter says it needs to have a 60 day requirement for letting us know if he wants to continue the term at the end of each year.

Mr. Ashley has to leave the meeting.

### **Engineer's Report**

Mr. Roberson covered everything during the financial report and hangar proposal.

### **Security Report**

Sgt. Honeycutt was unavailable due to a bad foot injury.

## **Directors Report**

Mr. Rogers tells the commission there is an open house at the weather center coming up. Mr. Rogers says we are helping them with a couple things because they can't spend any money on the event. We are getting them a couple portable toilets and some tables and canopies through the city. Mr. Rogers says the new grounds keeper is doing a great job.

## **Public Comment**

Jerry Homesly says he contacted center point to get his gas set up and they said there was a problem. The infrastructure is bad, and the gas line is broken. Mr. Julian says typically the gas company is responsible for the gas line up to the meter. Mr. Homesly says he wants to set a meter at his hangar. Center Point says they'd have to put in a new line for \$1500, but Mr. Julian asks why they wouldn't be responsible for that. Mr. Homesly said he's been talking with Gary Wharten at center point, Mr. Julian says to have him get in contact with Mr. Rogers. Mr. Halter says they might be saying they have to put in a new line, which is why there is a cost. Mr. Halter says he doesn't think we're responsible for getting utility lines to each hanger. Mr. Rogers says he'll get in touch with Gary at center point.

Mr. Blakey moves to adjourn. Mr. Hughes seconds. The vote carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.