

?Air Board, City Council, and Mayor agree to meet

Written by

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??? The Salem Municipal Airport Board of Commissioners (BOAC) met in regular session on Monday evening, June

30; all members were present.

The Board approved minutes of previous meetings plus received an update of its budget from the Salem

Clerk/Treasurer's office.

In attendance at the meeting was Salem Mayor, David Bower, who addressed the Board and offered on behalf of

himself and the Salem City Council to meet with members of BOAC and their attorneys to discuss options for the new

airport project. Monday, July 21 was agreed upon as the date for the closed executive session in the Salem City

Council chambers.

Karla Price, of R. W. Armstrong in Indianapolis, informed the Board that she has received no news from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) but that she has contacted six property owners with plans to make appointments for appraisals of their homes and land. Price told the Board that the FAA warned her that if they proceed with land acquisition they will be doing it at their own risk. According to Price, the FAA will not guarantee funding until all studies and reports have been filed and approved.

However, Price expressed confidence that the time line for approval set forth by the FAA would fit with the

schedule of making offers to purchase properties on or around August 1, 2008.

The expected environmental report will be made available at the office of the City Building Inspector, the airport

terminal building, and the Salem Public Library. The availability of that report will be published in local newspapers

according to BOAC President, Bill Barnett.

BOAC member, John Jones informed the other Board members that he had a copy of a letter of support for the new airport facility from Fabri-Form in Pekin. According to Jones, the letter sent to the office of Bower, expresses support for the project because of the larger airplane now being used by the company and the fact that they must land in Clarksville when executives visit the Pekin facility.

In other business, Board member Tim Peace reported that the process of securing a courtesy car for the airport is

moving along as per expectations. Peace said that the county was having some difficulty in locating the title to the

1999 vehicle.

Barnett announced that local pilot Fred Ramoni has donated a new weather station to the airport. Barnett expressed the gratitude of the Board for Ramoni's gift.

Airport Manager, Jeff Burns, informed the Board that a laptop computer was stolen from the terminal building

recently and recommended the Board consider locking the building when no one was scheduled to work. The Board

took Burns' recommendation under consideration.

Comments from patrons ranged from concerns about access roads to details about the funding formula for the new

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facility.

With no further business to conduct, the BOAC adjourned until the dual executive session on July 21 and its next

regularly schedule public meeting on Monday, July 28.