

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
RAPID CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD  
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005 - 10:00 AM  
AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Craig Uhre, President; Jerry Shoener, Vice President; Jerry Brown, Secretary; Bert Corwin, Jerry Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mason Short, Airport Executive Director; Ken Simmons, Airport Operations Officer; and Wanda Peacock, Administrative Assistant

Craig Uhre, President, called the special meeting of the Airport Board to order at 11:10 am.

**AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

It was moved by Jerry Mitchell and seconded by Bert Corwin to approve the Agenda of the Special Meeting of July 26, 2005 as presented. Motion carried.

**AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

The Airport board discussed a course of action for moving forward with the proposed airport authority. The Board agreed to establish a concise plan of four or five talking points. They also felt it was in the best interest to make certain all Council Members had a copy of the handout the Airport Executive Director used for the presentation.

Mason Short informed the Board of upcoming meetings he will be attending and the Board is welcome to attend:

- The Air Service Task Force will meet on 7/28/05 at Wells Fargo from 1:30-5:00 PM.
- The Rapid City Area Economic Development committee on August 17, 2005 at 10:00 am.
- The Chamber of Commerce on August 18, 2005, time to be determined.

It was agreed to have two Board members attend and rotate various meetings with the Airport Executive Director to inform these entities on the benefits to the community of creating an Airport Authority.

The County Commissioners had issues with eminent domain, taxes and zoning and passed a Resolution opposing the Airport Authority on 7/26/05. The Airport Board has the power to tax currently and has never exercised that power to date.

Airport staff recommended to "fix" things we want to fix. If we are not successful we are fodder for Airport Authority.

The idea of an Airport Authority has generated negative publicity and the Board felt it would be helpful for someone to do an article counteracting the negatives to the Rapid City Journal on what the authority is and what it will do for Rapid City. It was also suggested that the Rapid City Journal be encouraged to talk to other airports that are an authority. The Airport Board recommended the Airport Director contact Dan Daly, Rapid City Journal to request assistance in getting the facts out in a positive manner.

Mason provided the Board with a draft white page requesting issues surrounding the authority. The Board will review the draft and contact Mason with any recommended changes.

Bert Corwin expressed the importance of the Board meeting with the City Council members to further educate on the benefits to the community. The airport board will continue with the process of developing an authority. In the end, if it is not approved, we will continue to operate as we have. The Board recommended Mason set up meetings and they will attend.

**PLAN OF ACTION**

- **Recruit local support**
- **Council Members**
- **Economic Development**
- **Black Hills Badlands & Lakes**
- **Rapid City Hospitality Association**
- **Letter to Forum**
- **Suggest RCJ to take a position on the Airport Authority proposal**

#### **OTHER**

It was concluded that the major issue in this proposal is that we stay competitive with other airports in attracting airline service. Airport Authorities have a competitive advantage over our Airport and this must be communicated to the City and region.

It was also discussed that another cost savings the Airport Authority could realize would come from staying in the City of Rapid City Health Insurance pool. However, this would require the Council to change their policy in regards allowing other public entities to participate in the City's pool. It was concluded that this would need to be discussed with the council.

The Rapid City Regional Airport Board and staff will continue to proceed with the Airport Authority.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Jerry Mitchell and seconded by Jerry Shoener to adjourn the Special Meeting of July 26, 2005 at 11:55 am. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Brown  
Secretary

:wlp