

**Boca Raton Airport Authority
Emergency Meeting Minutes
March 06, 2013
Boca Raton City Hall - Council Chambers**

Chair Frank Feiler called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS

Frank Feiler	Chair
Paul W. Carman	Vice-Chair
Bruce Benefield	Secretary/Treasurer
Cheryl Budd	Member
Gene A. Folden	Member
David Freudenberg	Member
Bill Schwartz	Member

COUNSEL

Dawn Meyers

STAFF

Ken Day, Airport Manager
Paul McDermott, Assistant Airport Manager
Janet Sherr, Director of Landside Operations
Kimberly Whalen, Public Affairs Director
Arthur Rubin, Finance Manager
Russ Buck, Noise Abatement and Security

The meeting was televised live and videotaped for broadcast at a later date. The meeting was also streamed live to the Boca Raton Airport Authority website, www.bocairport.com.

Mr. Feiler introduced and welcomed aides from Representatives Frankel and Deutch's offices, Mayor Steve Abrams office, as well as Assistant City Manager, George Brown and various media.

AGENDA CHANGE

Ms. Meyers provided a request to move Item VI - Public Comments to be heard prior to Item V - Resolution 03-10-13E.

A MOTION to accept the agenda change was made by Mr. Freudenberg, SECONDED by Mr. Schwartz and approved by all Authority Members present.

TOWER CLOSURE NOTIFICATION

Mr. Day read the letter submitted to the Boca Raton Airport Authority Members in the package which included:

- A. Proposed Advisory Circular
- B. Sample Letter Sent to Airport
- C. AAAE Regulatory Alert
- D. DOT Inspector General's Comments

ACTION AUTHORITY HAS TAKEN TO DATE

Mr. Day stated, in regards to Agenda Items I-IV, Airport Management has not received official notification of the airport's tower closure as of this date. Mr. Day also stated that Airport Management first learned about the possible closure of the tower via a news article dated on February 27, 2013. Discussion ensued.

TOWER CONTRACT WITH FAA

Mr. Day stated that the tower closure is in the hands of the Secretary of Transportation. He also stated that Resolution 02-08-12 approved the new tower operating agreement between the FAA and the Authority, which was executed by the FAA on May 2, 2012. Discussion ensued.

OVERVIEW OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TOWER, EXCLUDING PERSONAL COSTS AND INSURANCE

Mr. Day stated the costs associated with tower, excluding personnel costs and insurance, is approximately \$80,000 annually. If including personnel costs and insurance costs it will be around \$650,000 annually. Discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vincent Costa, Coral Springs, Executive Director of the Boca Raton Pilots Association, stated that there is a safety issue when landing at an airport without a tower. Mr. Costa also stated the economic impact of not having a tower would mean less fuel sales and a loss of jobs. He also mentioned a reasonable user fee could be charged.

Marvin Diamond, 2481 NW 59th St. Boca Raton, Member of the Boca Raton Airport Advisory Committee, gave his time to Mr. Costa.

Mike Kline, Duty Manager, Signature Flight Support, asked what the impact of the airport's ability to get Customs would be if the tower were to close.

Mr. Feiler asked Mr. Kline if there have been any preliminary studies on the impact to the FBO if the tower closes and if not, requested that they share that information with the airport staff when it becomes available.

Paul Steinberg, 900 Bay Dr. Miami Beach, part owner of Boca Aviation, stated he has talked to Senator Nelson and Senator Rubio and the Mayor of Miami-Dade County. He also stated that Boca Aviation has been a tenant since 1982 and the tower has provided a safe field. Discussion ensued.

Neil Haynie, 800 Cypress Way Boca Raton, Vice-President of Hangar 5-23 Condo Association, stated he is opposed to user fees and the Authority should look into their reserves as he believes this is a temporary situation. Discussion ensued.

RESOLUTION 03-10-13E

A MOTION to consider Resolution Number 03-10-13E of the Boca Raton Airport Authority expressing disapproval of the Federal Aviation Administration’s decision to close the Boca Raton Airport Control Tower as a part of its cuts of the Contract Tower Program to implement the mandatory budget cuts required by the Budget Control Act of 2011 was made by Mr. Schwartz, SECONDED by Mr. Folden and approved by all the Authority Members present.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Feiler stated he appreciates everyone’s interest and stated if the tower closes the Authority would have three options. The first option is the Authority could authorize staffing the tower at an estimated annual cost of \$650,000, which will have a negative impact on the airport's cash flow as it would be an un-budgeted item. The second option is to regulate some type of user fee. The third option could be to regulate some type of agreement with the State of Florida to help subsidize the cost. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Benefield stated it is critical that everyone keep the pressure on Congress, as that is where the problem lies and where the issues are faced. Letters from the public will make a difference. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Freudenberg stated that the Federal Aviation Administration must receive comments by March 13, 2013 that depict this as a National Interest Problem. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Budd thanked those that attended and also for their input.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 am.

Frank Feiler, Chair

Date