

On July 10, 2017 the City of Wauchula Airport Advisory Board met for its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Suite 105 of Historic City Hall located at 225 East Main Street, Wauchula, Florida.

Board members present were Chairman Lavon Cobb, Vice-Chairman Michael Gillispie and Trez Vining.

Also present were Assistant City Manager Olivia Minshew and Deputy City Clerk Victoria Thompson.

Cobb declared a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda with Add – On

Vining asked if discussion could be held on who should be allowed to sit on the Advisory Board.

Gillispie motioned to approve the Agenda with Vining's addition, seconded by Vining.

With no discussion, Cobb called for all in favor, all responded aye.

For those opposed no response. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of May 1, 2017

Gillispie motioned to approve the May 1st Minutes, seconded by Vining.

With no discussion, Cobb called for all in favor, all responded aye.

For those opposed no response. Motion carried.

Discuss Bids and Grant Application for Rehabilitate, Mark & Light Runway, etc.

Mr. Russ Holliday of Avcon, Inc. was present and explained the bid award and the grant process that had occurred to this point for the rehab at the Airport. He also advised that while the FAA found the Blast Pads eligible under the contract, they could not be justified and would be removed from the project.

The start date for the project was discussed as was the project's affect on Bensen Days.

Discuss who should be allowed to sit on the Advisory Board

Vining stated he wanted to discuss whether or not a City employee should sit on the Advisory Board. The Resolution establishing the Advisory Board should be rewritten to prohibit the City from appointing an employee he stated. He felt there was enormous potential for conflict of interest and mischief. Vining then read from the Charter regarding the City Manager's ability to hire and fire employees as well as Board appointees. He stated the City Manager held enormous power over employees and if a City employee sat on the Board, they may not be an independent thinker; they would be more apt to do as they were told. Cobb stated things on the Board are different now; the Board is Advisory, not an Authority, as the City foots the bill for the Airport. He felt the Board just needs to have good people on it. There was additional lengthy discussion on the matter as well as dissolving this Board and turning it over to the City Commission. Cobb stated the City Commission had always taken the advice of this Board and there had never been a problem having a City employee sitting on it. Whether or not this Board was required by the State to exist was discussed with Ms. Minshew explaining the regulations of the State regarding local airports. After that discussion, the appointment of Amy Granda over Carl Saunders was raised by Vining; Ms. Minshew explained that the Commission felt she would be a valuable asset to the Board as she was the one overseeing the day-to-day operations at the Airport and could provide information regarding fuel sales, hangar availability and other concerns the Board may have questions about. Upon the conclusion of that discussion, Vining stated he had been misinformed about the situation but felt the possibility of conflict was still there. Cobb stated he liked being a member of the Board and the way things are run now. Discussion was then held on the maintenance of the grounds and the possibility of filling the two vacant Airport Advisory Board positions.

Comments from the Board

There were no additional comments from the Board.

Comments from the Public

There was no public present for comment.

With no further business to discuss, Cobb adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.