



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 10TH, 2019**

Present:

Chairman, Dave Holman
Member, JR Hansen
Member, Jim Beauchamp
Member, Mark Moodry
Member, Brendan McDonough

Excused:

None

Guests:

Mike Smith, Montana Standard
Rod Alne
Trevor Hughes

Public Comment:

None

Minutes:

JR Hansen made a motion to approved the minutes of the June 5th, 2019 regular board meeting. Mark Moodry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bills:

Brendan McDonough made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Jim Beauchamp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

AIP 53: Terminal Construction:

We were notified by the FAA that they held open are amending our grant in the amount of \$202,882. After the amendment, the final report will be submitted for final close out.

AIP 54: Terminal Construction:

We were notified by the FAA that they held open are amending our grant in the amount of \$199,308. After the amendment, the final report will be send to the FAA for closeout.

Regular Board Meeting

AIP 55: PCI Study:

Closeout documents have been sent to the FAA for review, pending closeout.

AIP 56: Snow Removal Equipment:

The equipment is still scheduled to be delivered late summer late August or early September.

AIP 57: Relocate Electrical Vault:

We received a grant in the amount of \$188,617 to relocate the electrical vault from old terminal into the new terminal.

AIP 58: Entitlement Transfer from Sidney-Pavement maintenance Project:

The pre bid walk through will be the 10th, and the bid opening will be July 25th for the crack seal/fog seal project.

Task Order \$84,200 for Morrison-Mierle, Inc was presented for the design work for pavement maintenance project.

JR Hansen made a motion to approve the task order. Mark Moodry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Terminal Demo:

The electrical vault is being moved next Tuesday and should take approximately one week, then demo the following week. Dave Holman stated he is concerned about the buildings condition being a safety hazard, and that the project need to be complete by the end of August. JR Hansen asked that we explore a way to get the area paved. It is important to have additional parking if we get another flight.

Assistant Manager:

Dave Holman informed the board that the hiring committee is recommending Jim Kambich for the assistant manager position. JR Hansen made a motion to hire Jim Kambich as assistant manager. Brendan McDonough seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Essential Air Service:

Dave Holman indicated that several members of the community have expressed concerns about United Airlines winning the EAS contract. Mark Moodry also said he has been contacted by several people as well, and he recommends we do a survey asking the public their preferred airline.

JR Hansen gave a recap of what has happened over the last couple years with the air service development. The committee was formed because our boardings have been declining and a pilot shortage is looming in the near future. Exploring our options, JR and Pam flew to St. George to discuss the possibility of a third flight to Minneapolis, as we were looking for connectivity for passengers going east. SkyWest offered the possibility of a them (SkyWest) operating United flight to Denver through a minimum revenue guarantee. JR and Pam, also attended two airline planning meetings over the past year, and United expressed interest at both of those meetings, as they are trying to expand their foot print in the northwest region of the country. This lead them to bid on the EAS contract for service for 2020-2022. JR also reminded everyone that the leakage study done by Meade and Hunt showed that we are leaking the majority of our customers to BZN and that they are using the DEN Hub, and that they (Meade and Hunt) said that the DEN Hub is a much larger hub that SLC, and it continues to grow with United, which would make connectivity easier for Butte passengers.

Jim Beauchamp asked if the leakage study took into consideration the number of people who come to southwest Montana to recreate. JR said the study did not include the information, but that is why United is interested in Butte, not for the local passengers, but the potential for the number of recreational travelers that come to this area.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the two carriers, and hubs, Mark Moodry made a recommendation to do a community wide survey, before he felt comfortable making a recommendation to the DOT.

Mike Smith, from the MT Standard offered run a story to make the public aware of the survey.

The board agreed to run the survey and meet after the results were tallied to make a recommendation to the DOT.

The meeting adjourned at 1:43.

Pam Chamberlin
Airport Manager