



## **ARCHULETA COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

1:00 PM, November 9, 2023  
Airport Manager's Office  
Pagosa Springs CO, 81147

Bill Sommer, AAC Chair, presiding  
Tim Gallagher, AAC Vice-Chair  
Mark Guenin, AAC Secretary  
John Musser, AAC Member

### **In attendance:**

Keith Serkes, AAC Member  
Chris Torres, Airport Manager  
Tony Wright, AvJet General Manager  
Zach McNeill, Blackhawk Aviation

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Sommer at 1:00 pm. A quorum to conduct AAC business was present.

### **AAC Membership**

Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Sommer each have terms which expire at the end of 2023. Reappointment of each was moved and seconded, and each was unanimously approved for a new three-year term. Each will continue his leadership position.

### **Airport Minimum Standards Document**

As periodically required, the Airport Minimum Standards Document was reviewed by the AAC membership. This document was approved, unchanged, by unanimous vote.

### **AAC By-laws**

As with the Airport Minimum Standards Document, the AAC By-laws were reviewed by the AAC membership. The by-laws were approved, unchanged, by unanimous vote.

### **Airport Manager's Report and Budget Update**

Mr. Torres reported not many changes to this year's budget.

- a. Budget meeting with the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) – the airport will be acquiring another pickup truck for use in plowing snow, as one that is currently being shared with another county department will no longer be available.
- b. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Planning for additional fire hydrants on Taxiway Bravo is underway. Possibilities include running a trench or installing a tank. The numbers are being analyzed now.
- c. Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL) – Planning is underway; this will be a complete replacement, with new LED lights.

d. AWOS replacement – the automated weather reporting system is old, and finding replacement parts has become impossible. This is slated for replacement next year, with funding 95% from the state / 5% from the County.

e. Runway resurfacing – slated for 2026-2027, in the next year will be core sampling of various spots of the runway to help determine if the runway can be adequately resurfaced in selected places, or if the entire runway needs resurfacing, with funding 95% from the state / 5% from the County.

f. Electric supply – running a 3-phase line along Cloman will permit expansion of services at the FBO and north hangars, perhaps even facilitating an electric-vehicle charging station.

### **FBO presentation**

Mr. Wright, who recently started as General Manager of the AvJet Pagosa FBO, introduced himself to the AAC and was welcomed by the membership. He is new to town but has a long history of FBO management; he has managed FBOs of all sizes ranging from small to international-airport-sized. Mr. McNeill is the assistant of Bruce Wagner of Rapid Deployment, Inc. (RDI), which recently acquired AvJet Pagosa. Mr. McNeill has a long history in the aviation industry. Each sees great potential for the future for KPSO.

### **Economic Impact Study**

Mr. Sommer gave a presentation on the status of the airport's Economic Impact Study.

NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) economic Factors / Multipliers are available for our use performing the Economic Impact Study (EIS) analysis from the State of Colorado, at no cost.

Visitor and Part Time Resident survey response has been underwhelming. Need to determine how to increase response. We have missed many visitors (promises to complete survey, but then do not receive a response).

All responses to date (first 3 months of period), except one, have indicated they would not come to Archuleta County or do business here if the Stevens Field did not exist. Payroll impact from visitors to date total \$6.25M (~\$11M, incl. Indirect, Induced multipliers)

Expenditures: \$37,330 (Lodging, restaurants, etc.). We believe this is very low.

Comments / suggestions from Visitors: a Precision Instrument Approach desired (lower visibility and ceilings); Additional Hangar Space; Deicing equipment; Faster snow removal

Compliments from Visitors on paving Cloman Road and the courtesy of the FBO Staff

Spending by Air Attack Fire response input coming after fire season ends (Fires: Chris Mountain, Coal Mine, Bear Creek, Quartz Ridge, Trail Springs, Mill Creek 2, and Control Burns)

Yet to begin Airport Direct / Affected Businesses interviews and data collection. Planned start in Jan. 2024.

Tenant Surveys can start soon

Will collect other data as it becomes available: County Budget / Employment, Prop. Taxes, Leases, Fuel Flow, Utilities. Etc.

Plan to begin drafting report in Spring 2024. Final report in August 2024. Period of evaluation ends in July 2024.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

Future Meetings will be scheduled as needed

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business before the AAC, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.