

**Official Minutes of  
MARION COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

April 08, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Marion County Board of County Commissioners met in a workshop session in Commission Chambers at 9:38 a.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019 at the Marion County Governmental Complex located in Ocala, Florida.

**INTRODUCTION OF WORKSHOP BY CHAIRMAN KATHY BRYANT**

Chairman Stone advised that the workshop was scheduled this morning to discuss Marion County Airport Fees.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call the following members were present: Chairman Michelle Stone, District 5; Vice Chairman David Moore, District 1; Commissioner Kathy Bryant, District 2; Commissioner Jeff Gold, District 3; and Commissioner Carl Zalak, District 4. Also present were County Attorney Matthew G. Minter and County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes.

**UPDATE:** County Attorney Matthew Minter advised that in 1981 a Special Act created the Dunnellon Airport Authority and the Board of County Commissioner's (BCC) is the governing body of that Authority. He stated the BCC has not put on their Dunnellon Airport Authority "hats" or held a meeting as the Dunnellon Airport Authority, which would be done similar to the Marion County Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) meetings. The Special Act provides for the powers of the Authority to enter into contracts and set rates, fees and charges.

Mr. Minter stated several years ago the Dunnellon Airport was moved under the Parks and Recreation Department and it is unclear what status staff has if they are not acting under the auspicious of the Authority. He recommended the BCC convene a meeting as the Dunnellon Airport Authority and in that meeting have the Authority indicate that they will contract with the BCC to manage the operational aspects of the airport. In the same hearing the Board can hold a Public Hearing to approve some of the rates and charges that are being discussed today.

**STAFF PRESENTATION – Jim Couillard, PLA, ASLA, Parks & Recreation Director:**

- Airport Fees

Parks and Recreation Director Jim Couillard presented a 4 page Agenda packet and advised that present today are Airport Manager Mike Grawe and Assistant Director Kelsey Mears. Included in the Agenda packet are the proposed fees for the Dunnellon Airport, which include fuel sales prices, lease rates for various hangers, airport services, and grounds and facility fees. Most of the fees are fixed, but staff is requesting flexibility in negotiating other fees, such as facility use rates and manning rates for events held at the airport. This flexibility will allow all staff to work with event holders to provide them with desired services, while keeping fees affordable. All leases and agreements for events will still come to either the Board or County Administrator for approval.

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In response to Commissioner Moore, Airport Manager Mike Grawe advised that staff has socialized the proposed rates ahead of time to ensure that they are fair and equitable for everyone, noting most of the existing customers are happy to see that the county is standardizing the rates.

Commissioner Zalak questioned how many events currently take place at the airport and how the rates will affect future events. Mr. Grawe advised that staff is working to bringing more events to the location and commented on the existing events.

In response to Commissioner Gold, Mr. Grawe addressed the necessary improvements required on the back runway for the different types of events. He advised that the proposed fees will support the airports fuel prices, noting the department tries to keep operating cost low to allow the fuel prices to be lower than competitors at neighboring airfields.

Commissioner Zalak questioned if any of the surrounding airports have the same fees for rentals and day use, as well as what qualified as an event. Mr. Grawe advised that the fees are comparable. He stated events are anything that inhibits the airport, whether it uses the facilities, requires exclusive rights to a runway, use of overtime or any area that is not typically used.

General Discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Grawe advised that the only event currently scheduled is the "Fast" event, which has been routed for approval in the past and uses the same contract. He advised that the airport is hoping to grow, but does not have any events booked until next spring.

Commissioner Zalak stated the airport will have a year to inform people of the new pricing. General discussion resumed.

In response to Commissioner Zalak, Mr. Grawe advised that a standardized rate has been implemented for the hangers in the amount of \$250.00 or \$300.00, which is approximately an 8 percent (%) increase.

Commissioner Bryant questioned how many people are on the waiting list to rent a T-Hanger. Mr. Grawe stated there roughly 47 names active and 20 inactive.

Commissioner Zalak requested staff send a Notice to anyone who held an event with the airport in the past 2 years advising them of the fee changes.

Mr. Bouyounes advised that the fee schedule will come back to the Board for approval after the meeting is held by the Dunnellon Airport Authority to contract with the BCC.

Mr. Minter clarified that once the Dunnellon Airport Authority contracts with the BCC the BCC can make decision without reconvening the Authority. He recommended during the next Legislative session the Board request the Special Act be dissolved and the Dunnellon Airport be moved under the BCC Authority.

- Consideration of Logo Options

Mr. Couillard presented the Board with 4 different logo options for the airport. It was the general consensus of the Board to move forward with Option 4.

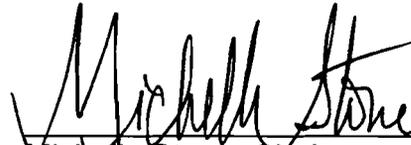
## **BOARD DISCUSSION: NONE**

## **CLOSING COMMENTS:**

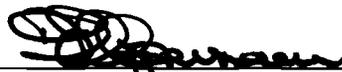
Chairman Stone thanked staff for all their hard work.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting thereupon adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

  
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Michelle Stone, Chairman

Attest:

  
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David R. Ellspermann, Clerk

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