

4-11-18

MWRA Commission Meeting

Present: Tim O'Neil, Jay McCusker, Jay Ennis, John Ogle, John Tholl

On the phone: Dave Ernsberger (who is in Texas), Dave Presby (who is in Georgia)

Also present: Sondra Brekke, Wendy Roberts, Nikolas Ippolito, Armand Dufresne, Stephen Riesland

Quorum established

Minutes Approval – deferred until Dave Ernsberger & Dave Presby have an opportunity to review by email which was sent during meeting

Engineering Consultant Selection- Jay Ennis explained the selection process to be review of the statement of qualifications and ranking them, then created a shortlist consisting of three firms, DuBois and King, ASG and Gale Engineering, interview committee conducted interviews of the three firms which included questions that were sent in advance, then did reference checks. Committee's recommendation was to rank Gale Engineering as first and ASG as second. David Ernsberger made motion to accept recommendations of committee and select Gale first with ASG as second. Vote taken by roll call with all voting in favor.

Fuel Purchase – Wendy advised that there was some research into pricing, Jim had ordered fuel at \$4.18 a gallon, and she put a halt on it due to the high price, learned that there is another vendor that sells at a much reduced cost – was \$3.93 a gallon. The company has the capacity to transfer the credit card sales to our bank account. The new fuel vendor is World Fuel Sales. They sent a credit application that needs to be completed but she is not at this point able to complete that due to not being authorized. John Tholl moved to authorize Wendy to complete application and order fuel, seconded by John Ogle. Vote taken by roll call with all voting in favor except Jay McCusker who abstained from vote.

John Ogle moved to authorize purchase of fuel up to \$25,000 dollars of fuel. Seconded by Dave Presby. Vote taken by roll call with all voting in the affirmative except for Jay McCusker who voted against.

Jay Ennis wanted to invite the Enterprise Rental Car manager to the next meeting. Commission was in favor of that. Jay will make arrangements to have the manager here.

John Tholl advised about the Civil Air Patrol coming the weekend of May 4th and request to increase the bandwidth for the weekend. Wendy advised that the internet provider has already been contacted and we are waiting to hear back. Wendy will follow up again.

Dave Ernsberger inquired about status of the sponsor for the airport – Wendy advised that Lyn and Cathy Conway have already

Approval of minutes – John Ogle moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Dave Presby, all voted via roll call in favor

Jay McCusker brought up the IMA and the election of officers which is to occur in May and wanted to remind everyone of that. May 9th is the date that elections will need to take place

Jay McCusker inquired about switching propane suppliers, Dalton is about ready to switch over and wants to know if the commission is willing to consider switching over to Rhymes. Commission was favorable to Jay McCusker exploring that.

Jay McCusker questioned the letter sent by the Whitefield regarding the nominations and denying Wendy's appointment citing the inconsistency that they denied the appointment but then leave it up to the Commission as to what level of involvement Wendy has. Jay asked John Tholl as the selectboard representative how that letter was written. John Tholl stated that he signed the letter because he did not want to create discord down the line but he did not support the other two selectmen's decision. John Tholl could not answer that question and recommended that the Commission ask to be on the agenda. Jay McCusker asked John to bring before the Selectboard the question as to the inconsistency in the letter that was sent by the Selectboard. John again stated he believed the commission should go before the board and he was fully in support of Wendy staying on the commission.

Jay also wanted on the record that the Whitefield Selectboard does not understand the problems that they caused by denying Wendy to be on the board, she has been integrally involved in many of the important projects, ie the Jet Fuel/AvGas Fuel farm, Northern Border Grant process, the DBE, the Stormwater Pollution Program, dealing with defunct leaseholders, etc. both to this Commission, to the airport and to the Town of Whitefield. John Tholl stated that he agrees with Jay and that he believes his denial of her nomination is a more of a personality issue than any real basis.

Dave Presby stated that he at first had reservations when he first started working with Wendy and they quickly disappeared. Wendy has been very helpful with putting on the shows and work at the airport and he is down to the point that if the help is being taken away, he's next to be gone. He's so close to being done himself. Who is going to do the work now that they took the person who is doing all the work for the airport.

Tim O'Neill had questions as to how the Selectboard believed the work was going to get done. As a business man you always have to have a plan and what is their plan.

John Tholl stated that the other members of the board have the idea that they can appoint people to the Commission and they can control the commission.

Question was raised if a letter should be drafted to the Whitefield Selectboard asking for reconsideration. All were in agreement although no formal motion was made. Dave Ernsberger suggested that all the commissioners should sign it and Dave Presby asked that it be sent via email and he would scan it back. Jay McCusker suggested that Dave Ernsberger write the letter as he is more of a wordsmith. Jay Ennis offered to assist Dave Ernsberger in drafting a letter to the Selectboard asking for reconsideration of the Selectboard decision. All agreed to that. Jay McCusker stated he did not want to just send a letter to get pushed aside but wanted someone to stand up and read it at the next selectboard meeting and that he would do it.

Jay did a light check the other day, we are in really good shape overall, there are some taxiway lights out, we are out of halogen bulbs and he is not willing to put them on his credit card at this point for reimbursement. Wendy stated perhaps we could do an EFT to make payment from airport account.

Motion to adjourn made by Dave Ernsberger, seconded by Jay Ennis, all voted in favor.

