

WARREN COUNTY DPW COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, February 1, 2011
09:30 am

Airport AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER..... Chairman Dan Belden
APPROVAL OF MINUTES..... Chairman Dan Belden
NEW BUSINESS..... Chairman Dan Belden

FAA GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2011

Page #

- 1 – RR to execute FAA grant for PAPI installation on Runway 12/30 to mitigate for trees in protected approach airspace ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw
- 2 – RR to execute FAA grant for phase 1 pre-negotiation for easement acquisition on 3 parcels in Rwy 30 approach airspace ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw
- 3 – RR to execute FAA grant for Design, Mitigation & Permitting for Rwy 1/19 1000' extension project. ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw
- 4 – RR to execute FAA grant for construction - expansion to airport fire house. ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw

Travel Requests

- 5 – RR to authorize out of state travel for inspection and initial training of new airport fire truck prior to delivery for Brian Gereau, Derrick Blackmer and one mechanic (TBD).. Nesquehoning, PA, all major expenses to be paid by KME (food, lodging ,travel). ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw
- 6 – RR to authorize out of state travel for airport manager to attend 34th annual FAA Conference in Hershey, PA ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw

Notice of intent to fill vacant position

- 7 – RR to fill Senior Airport Facility Maintenance Mechanic Position, Mike Manney is retiring from the county on February 27, 2011 after 35 years of service. ...Airport Manager Don DeGraw
- 8 – RR to back fill one or more positions due to internal promotions created by filling the Senior Airport Facility Maintenance Mechanic Position. ..Airport Manager Don DeGraw

Items of Interest:

- Tree clearing on VMJR companies property adjacent to airport – update.
- Attached newspaper articles

OLD BUSINESS..... Chairman Dan Belden
REFERRALS..... Chairman Dan Belden
PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR..... Chairman Dan Belden
ADJOURNMENT..... Chairman Dan Belden

RESOLUTION REQUEST FORM NO. 5

Request to Apply for a Grant Application and Grant Agreement

DEPARTMENT NAME: DPW

DATE: January 19, 2011

- (a) Purpose of Grant: Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a grant agreement with the FAA, to perform construction/installation of PAPI's for Runway 12 and /or Runway 30 to mitigate for tree penetrations on the approaches. The PAPI's provide vertical visual guidance to pilots.

- (b) Name of Grantor: FAA-AIP / NYS DOT

- (c) Address of Contractor: FAA - ADO, 600 Old County Road, Suite 446, Garden City, NY 11530 & NYS - DOT Albany

- (d) Grantor's Contact Person and Telephone Number: John Dermody, Manager 516-227-3803

- (e) Has or Will the Grant Application or Grant Agreement be provided, if so, Please Attach? n/a

- (f) Effective Date of Grant: n/a

- (g) Termination Date of Grant: n/a

- (h) Total Dollar Amount Involved (not to exceed): \$250,000

- (i) Deadline to Submit Grant Application and/or Grant Agreement: ASAP

- (j) Is a Budget amendment required? no If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 7.

- (k) Are the funds to go into a Capital Project or Capital Reserve Project? yes If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 8 or Form No. 9, as applicable.

- (i) Is a Local Share Required? yes If Yes, Where are the Funds? List Budget Code

(with title), Object Code (with title), and Amount **OR** Capital Project **OR** Capital Reserve Project Number and Title and Amount: Source of funding TBD. (95% Federal \$237,500 & 2.5% State \$6,250 & 2.5% Local \$6,250)

RESOLUTION REQUEST FORM NO. 5

Request to Apply for a Grant Application and Grant Agreement

DEPARTMENT NAME: DPW

DATE: January 19, 2011

- (a) Purpose of Grant: Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a grant agreement with the FAA, to have C & S Engineers start pre-negotiation of proposed aviation easements for three properties associated with obstruction removal within the Runway 30 approach surfaces.
- (b) Name of Grantor: FAA-AIP / NYS DOT
- (c) Address of Contractor: FAA - ADO, 600 Old County Road, Suite 446, Garden City, NY 11530 & NYS - DOT Albany
- (d) Grantor's Contact Person and Telephone Number: John Dermody, Manager 516-227-3803
- (e) Has or Will the Grant Application or Grant Agreement be provided, if so, Please Attach? n/a
- (f) Effective Date of Grant: n/a
- (g) Termination Date of Grant: n/a
- (h) Total Dollar Amount Involved (not to exceed): \$50,000
- (i) Deadline to Submit Grant Application and/or Grant Agreement: ASAP
- (j) Is a Budget amendment required? no If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 7.
- (k) Are the funds to go into a Capital Project or Capital Reserve Project? yes If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 8 or Form No. 9, as applicable.
- (i) Is a Local Share Required? yes If Yes, Where are the Funds? List Budget Code

(with title), Object Code (with title), and Amount **OR** Capital Project **OR** Capital Reserve Project Number and Title and Amount: Source of funding TBD.
(95% Federal \$47,500 & 2.5% State \$1250 & 2.5% Local \$1250)

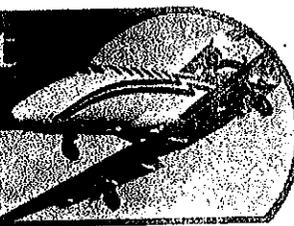
Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport

Warren County, New York

Queensbury Ave., Rm. 201, Queensbury, New York 12804

Tel: 518-792-3905 Fax: 518-792-0783

e-mail: airport@warrencountypw.com



January 18, 2011

Mr. John Dermody
Federal Aviation Administration
N.Y. Airports District Office
600 Old Country Road, Suite 446
Garden City, NY 11530

Re: Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport
Easement Acquisition 3 Parcels in R/W 30
Approach – Ph I Pre-Negotiation & Appraisals
ACIP Package FY-2011

Dear Mr. Dermody:

In accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration requirements, the following statements are being submitted in conjunction with this Airport Capital Improvement Program package.

1. Project Narrative Statement

Easement / Land Acquisition 3 Parcels in R/W 30 Approach – Ph I Pre-Negotiation & Appraisals

Description: This project consists of the first phase of the acquisition of aviation easements over three properties associated with obstruction removal within the R/W 30 approach at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport. A Land Acquisition option may become the preferred section over an easement, based upon the landowner's preference and if it is in the FAA & Sponsor's best interests. In order to accomplish the acquisitions, pre-negotiation meetings with each of the affected property owners to explain the acquisition process and make them aware of their rights under the Land Acquisition Act of 1970 will be performed. In addition, real property appraisals and review appraisals will be performed. Property owners will be re-contacted to present the Offer to Purchase and obtain signatures. The affected properties are identified as (Tax I.D. # 297.16-1-2 & # 297.20-1-2 Warren Co., Town of Queensbury; and # 137.-1-49 Washington Co., Town of Kingsbury).

Justification: Off-airport obstructions are known to exist in the RW 30 approach surface and RPZ. Lowering, removal, or marking & lighting of these obstructions will require acquisition of easements or land from the associated property owners prior to any construction. Completion of this project will allow these and other obstructions to be removed from the listing of Hazards to Air Navigation and will further enhance airport safety by controlling development

and preventing incompatible activities within the Runway Protection Zone and the approach surface to Runway 30. The purpose of the Phase I acquisition is to determine the fair market value of an aviation easement or of the parcel, reach an amicable agreement with each of the property owner(s), and obtain the rights for the mitigation of obstructions to the navigable airspace to the Rwy 30 approach, known to exist on these parcels as identified in the 2009 Obstruction Evaluation Report. Completion of this project will allow a phase II project consisting of the actual purchase of the air rights over the subject properties or land acquisitions. This Phase I project is the first step in obtaining rights or the land to mitigate obstructions and will allow the Sponsor to maintain the growth of natural vegetation and restrict the erection of any structures or objects within the area.

2. **Consistency with ALP/FAA Standards**
This project is not currently shown on the Airport Layout Plan, but will be submitted as a pen and ink change as soon as possible.
3. **Consultation with Users**
Primary users of the airport have been consulted and are aware of the proposed development project.
4. **Displaced Persons Statement**
The airport project proposed in this aid application does not involve the displacement or relocation of persons residing on land needed for such development.
5. **Specific Opposition Statement**
The owners of the airport are not aware of any significant community opposition to the proposed project.
6. **Local Public Hearing Requirements**
The proposed project does not include a new airport site, runway extension, or a new runway and it does not appreciably change the present airport use. Therefore, a public meeting is not required.
7. **Force Account** - not applicable
8. **Multi-Year Funding** - not applicable
9. **First Time Sponsor** - not applicable

The above statements are provided with and form a part of our application for the referenced projects. We will promptly answer your questions or provide additional information upon request.

Very truly yours,

Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport



Donald P. DeGraw
Airport Manager

RESOLUTION REQUEST FORM NO. 5

Request to Apply for a Grant Application and Grant Agreement

DEPARTMENT NAME: DPW

DATE: January 19, 2011

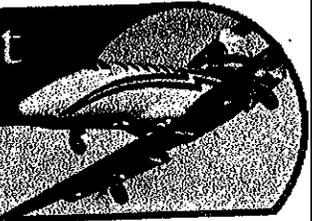
- (a) Purpose of Grant: Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a grant agreement with the FAA, to have C & S Engineers perform Runway 1 Extension - Design, Mitigation and Permitting for a 1000' extension to Runway 1/19.
- (b) Name of Grantor: FAA-AIP / NYS DOT
- (c) Address of Contractor: FAA - ADO, 600 Old County Road, Suite 446, Garden City, NY 11530 & NYS - DOT Albany
- (d) Grantor's Contact Person and Telephone Number: John Dermody, Manager 516-227-3803
- (e) Has or Will the Grant Application or Grant Agreement be provided, if so, Please Attach? n/a
- (f) Effective Date of Grant: n/a
- (g) Termination Date of Grant: n/a
- (h) Total Dollar Amount Involved (not to exceed): \$550,000
- (i) Deadline to Submit Grant Application and/or Grant Agreement: ASAP
- (j) Is a Budget amendment required? no If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 7.
- (k) Are the funds to go into a Capital Project or Capital Reserve Project? yes If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 8 or Form No. 9, as applicable.
- (i) Is a Local Share Required? yes If Yes, Where are the Funds? List Budget Code

(with title), Object Code (with title), and Amount OR Capital Project OR Capital Reserve Project Number and Title and Amount: Source of funding TBD.
(95% Federal \$522,500 & 2.5% State \$13,750 & 2.5% Local \$13,750)

Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport

warren county, new york

121 Conklin Ave., Rm. 201, Queensbury, New York 12801
Tel: 518-792-5995, Fax: 518-792-0783
e-mail: airport@warrencountypw.com



January 18, 2011

Mr. John Dermody
Federal Aviation Administration
N.Y. Airports District Office
600 Old Country Road, Suite 446
Garden City, NY 11530

Re: Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport
Runway 1-19 Extension Design, Mitigation & Permitting
CIP Package FY-2011

Dear Mr. John Dermody:

In accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration requirements, the following statements are being submitted in conjunction with this Airport Capital Improvement Program package.

1. Project Narrative Statement Runway 1-19 Extension Design, Mitigation & Permitting

Description: The project is a 1,000-foot extension to Runway 1-19, located off the Runway 1 end. The existing runway is 5,000 feet long and 150 feet wide, and will be 6,000 feet long upon project completion.

The project more specifically includes the following major elements:

- Maintaining standard Runway Safety Areas (RSA) with a length of 1,000 feet beyond the runway end and a width of 500 feet.
- Constructing a 35-foot wide parallel taxiway extension whose centerline is 400 feet from the centerline of the adjacent runway 1-19.
- Additional edge lighting and airfield signage associated with additional runway and taxiway pavement.
- Relocating the Medium Intensity Approach Lighting System (MALSR)
- Relocating the existing glide slope shelter and antenna.
- Relocating the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI).
- Modification of storm drainage facilities.
- Removing trees penetrating navigable airspace in the runway approach / departure zones and mitigating the impacts within wetlands.
- Mitigation of the wetland impacts as a result of fill / grading within the limits of the runway extension and runway safety area improvements.
- Environmental permitting associated with the above mentioned wetland impacts.

Justification: The runway extension is needed to accommodate existing and future aviation demand as demonstrated by the Runway Length Analysis in the recently completed Airport Master Plan update as well as the approved purpose and need section of the project's Environmental Assessment. This project will also allow for a full parallel taxiway to Runway 1-19 and will enhance safety at the airport.

RESOLUTION REQUEST FORM NO. 5

Request to Apply for a Grant Application and Grant Agreement

DEPARTMENT NAME: DPW

DATE: January 19, 2011

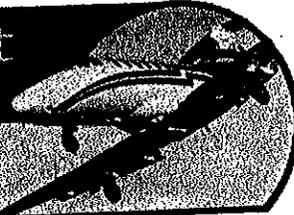
- (a) Purpose of Grant: Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to execute a grant agreement with the FAA, to expand (construction) the existing ARFF building to a size sufficient to accommodate the new Index B Airport Fire Truck.
- (b) Name of Grantor: FAA-AIP / NYS DOT
- (c) Address of Contractor: FAA - ADO, 600 Old County Road, Suite 446, Garden City, NY 11530 & NYS - DOT Albany
- (d) Grantor's Contact Person and Telephone Number: John Dermody, Manager 516-227-3803
- (e) Has or Will the Grant Application or Grant Agreement be provided, if so, Please Attach? n/a
- (f) Effective Date of Grant: n/a
- (g) Termination Date of Grant: n/a
- (h) Total Dollar Amount Involved (not to exceed): \$190,000
- (i) Deadline to Submit Grant Application and/or Grant Agreement: ASAP
- (j) Is a Budget amendment required? no If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 7.
- (k) Are the funds to go into a Capital Project or Capital Reserve Project? yes If yes, also complete and submit Form No. 8 or Form No. 9, as applicable.
- (i) Is a Local Share Required? yes If Yes, Where are the Funds? List Budget Code

(with title), Object Code (with title), and Amount OR Capital Project OR Capital Reserve Project Number and Title and Amount: Source of funding TBD. (95% Federal \$180,500 & 2.5% State \$4750 & 2.5% Local \$4750)

Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport

warren county, new york

100 Spruillbury Ave., Rm. 201, Queensbury, New York 12804
Tel: 518-792-5995, Fax: 518-792-0783
e-mail: airport@warrencountydpw.com



January 18, 2011

Mr. John Dermody, Manager
FAA N.Y. Airports District Office
600 Old Country Road, Suite 446
Garden City, NY 11530

Re: Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport
ARFF Building Expansion (Construction)
FY – 2011 ACIP Package

Dear Mr. Dermody,

In accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration requirements, the following statements are being submitted in conjunction with this Airport Capital Improvement Program package.

1. Project Narrative Statement

ARFF Building Expansion (Construction)

Description: This project includes expanding the existing ARFF building to a size sufficient to accommodate the Index B ARFF vehicle acquired by Warren County in 2010. The building's vehicle bays will be expanded out the rear wall from a depth of 31 feet to 42 feet. The width of 41 feet and height of 18 feet will be maintained. The building is constructed of concrete block and has an 8-inch concrete slab on grade for the floor, new materials will match existing. The building expansion of 461 square feet is based on all Index B sized vehicles, in addition to the KME Force 1500 vehicle being acquired. The area behind the building is currently previously disturbed turf.

Justification: The building expansion is required to house the ARFF vehicle currently being acquired by Warren County. The vehicle will replace the 1992 ARFF Vehicle per the FAA Part 139 Airport Certification Inspection as it beyond the 12-15 year normal life expectancy.

SCHEDULE "A"

AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND MEETING OR CONVENTION

Check one:

- In-State (needs Supervisory Committee authorization)
- Out-Of State (needs Board resolution)

The DPW-Airport hereby authorizes Derrick Blackner
 (Supervisory Committee) (Employee Name)
Brian Gereau + DPW Mechanic

to attend KME Man. Plant - Airport Fire Truck initial inspection/training
 (Name of meeting or organization)

at Nesquehoning, PA.
 (Address)

on TBD - 3 days. Mode of transportation to be used KME VAN
 (Dates) (County Vehicle or Mass Transportation)

If the mode of transportation is not a county vehicle or mass transportation, please explain: KME IS Providing transportation

Proper documentation must be attached when submitting for approval.
 (Please check documents attached)

- Notice of meeting or convention including cost.

KME covering costs.
No County costs.

For Overnight Travel

- Room rate \$ _____ GSA* Rate \$ _____
 - Meal costs - GSA*per diem rate \$ _____
- *www.gsa.gov

Date: 2/1/11

[Signature]
 Department Head Signature

Date: 2/1/11

[Signature]
 Committee Chairman Signature

Please refer to the Warren County Travel Policy and County Vehicle Use Regulations for general policy guidelines.

Please check to request a fleet vehicle.

REQUEST FOR USE OF FLEET VEHICLE

Filing Instructions:

1. Original with voucher to Auditor.
2. Copy to Frank Morehouse if fleet vehicle is needed.
3. Copy to Clerk of the Board with Resolution Request form if out-of-state travel.
4. Copy to Purchasing with Purchase Order, if required.
5. Copy to Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services if credit card will be used.

SCHEDULE "A"

AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND MEETING OR CONVENTION

Check one:

- In-State (needs Supervisory Committee authorization)
- Out-Of State (needs Board resolution)

The DPW-Airport hereby authorizes Don DeGraw
(Supervisory Committee) (Employee Name)

to attend 34th Annual Airports Conference - FAA
(Name of meeting or organization)

at Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA
(Address)

on MARCH 1-3, 2011 Mode of transportation to be used N/A
(Dates) (County Vehicle or Mass Transportation)

If the mode of transportation is not a county vehicle or mass transportation, please explain: Private vehicle, no expense to county.

Proper documentation must be attached when submitting for approval.
 (Please check documents attached)

- Notice of meeting or convention including cost.

For Overnight Travel

- Room rate \$ 140.00³ GSA* Rate \$ 106
- Meal costs - GSA*per diem rate \$ N/A

*www.gsa.gov

Registration Fee = \$ 305
 Hotel Fee = \$ 420
 \$ 725

Date: 2/1/11

[Signature]
 Department Head Signature

Date: 2/1/11

[Signature]
 Committee Chairman Signature

Please refer to the Warren County Travel Policy and County Vehicle Use Regulations for general policy guidelines.

Please check to request a fleet vehicle.

REQUEST FOR USE OF FLEET VEHICLE

Filing Instructions:

1. Original with voucher to Auditor.
2. Copy to Frank Morehouse if fleet vehicle is needed.
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4. Copy to Purchasing with Purchase Order, if required.
5. Copy to Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services if credit card will be used.

March 1-3, 2011 F

Penn State » Outreach » Airports Conference

[Home](#)

34th Annual Airports Conference

This conference is co-sponsored by the FAA Eastern Region Airports Division and The designed for government officials, airport owners/management, consultants, contractor personnel.

[Schedule at a Glance](#)

[Exhibitor Information](#)

Conference Program

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

The conference provides the latest information on FAA programs and policies as well as management, consultants, and others in the airport industry.

[CEUs](#)

[Location and Accommodations](#)

The topics that will be presented at the conference include airport planning, design, fire environmental issues, engineering, and field lighting. The purpose is to provide leaders safe and efficient regional airport system to satisfy the needs of our aviation interests, environmental compatibility, local property rights, and safeguarding the public investment

[Fee and Registration](#)

[5K Fun Run](#)

The 2011 conference agenda, with session descriptions, will be available on the FAA website second week of January 2011. Visit the FAA Airports News and Events page for details

[Contact Us](#)

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Last updated Tuesday, January 18, 2011

RESOLUTION REQUEST FORM NO. 12

Schedule "A"

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILL VACANT POSITION

This notice of intent is filed whenever a department head plans to fill an existing funded position in their budget that is vacated due to a retirement, resignation or termination. This notice may not be used for requests to create a *new* position. For complete instructions on the procedure to be followed, see the reverse of this form.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Department 19

Title of Position Sr. Airport Facility Maint. Mechanic

Base salary 37,489.00

Budget code and title A.5610

This position is vacated due to: Retirement Resignation Termination Promotion
 Other

Employee No. 518

Is this position mandated? Yes No Is the position reimbursable? Yes No

Source of reimbursement: Federal % State % Other %

Impact to Budget: Included in 2011 budget

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Name of Committee _____ Date _____

- The Administrator has no objection to the filling of the vacancy.
 The Administrator objects to the filling of the vacancy.

Administrator Signature _____

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Name of Committee _____ Date _____

- The committee has no objection to the filling of the vacancy.
 The committee objects to the filling of the vacancy and will be sending a resolution to the full board to have the position removed from the budget.

Ranking Committee Member Signature _____

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Date _____

- The Personnel Committee has no objection to the filling of the vacancy.
 The Personnel Committee objects to the filling of the vacancy and will be sending a resolution to the full board to have the position removed from the budget.

Ranking Committee Member Signature _____

RESOLUTION REQUEST FORM NO. 12

Schedule "A"

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILL VACANT POSITION

This notice of intent is filed whenever a department head plans to fill an existing funded position in their budget that is vacated due to a retirement, resignation or termination. This notice may not be used for requests to create a new position. For complete instructions on the procedure to be followed, see the reverse of this form.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Department 19

Title of Position To Be Determined

Base salary To Be Determined

Budget code and title Various

This position is vacated due to: Retirement Resignation Termination Promotion
 Other

Employee No.

Is this position mandated? Yes No Is the position reimbursable? Yes No

Source of reimbursement: Federal % State % Other %

Impact to Budget: Included in 2011 Budget

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Name of Committee _____ Date _____

- The Administrator has no objection to the filling of the vacancy.
 The Administrator objects to the filling of the vacancy.

Administrator Signature _____

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLETES THIS SECTION

Name of Committee _____ Date _____

- The committee has no objection to the filling of the vacancy.
 The committee objects to the filling of the vacancy and will be sending a resolution to the full board to have the position removed from the budget.

Ranking Committee Member Signature _____

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE COMPLETES THIS SECTION

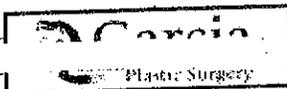
Date _____

- The Personnel Committee has no objection to the filling of the vacancy.
 The Personnel Committee objects to the filling of the vacancy and will be sending a resolution to the full board to have the position removed from the budget.

Ranking Committee Member Signature _____



Closings & Delays: sponsored by
or Meals - Closed



Home / News / Local

Saratoga County officials seek to expand airport

- Story
- Discussion
- Image (3)

Saratoga County officials seek to expand airport

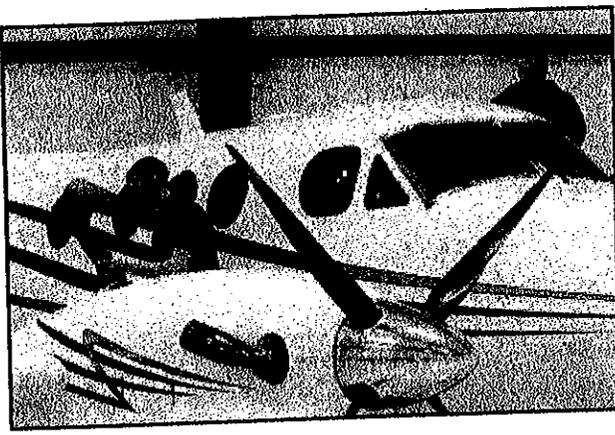
DREW KERR - dkerr@poststar.com The Post-Star | Posted: Thursday, January 6, 2011 3:59 pm |

(1) Comments

Font Size:

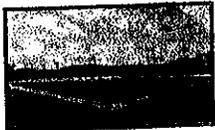
- Default font size
- Larger font size

- 2 retweet
- Recommend Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



Aaron Eisenhauer Aaron Eisenhauer - aeisenhauer@poststar.com Ben Stanistreet and Robbie Hunter Jr., employees of North American Flight Services, wipe down one of the company's charter planes in one of the hangars at the Saratoga County Airport on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. North American Flight Services, the airport





MILTON - The Saratoga County Airport has evolved quite dramatically from the days when it was little more than a dirt strip where B-17s and other military aircraft were tested during World War II.

Today, there is nearly 9,000 feet of runway, more than 65,000 landings and takeoffs a year and at least 50 airplanes stored on the grounds or in hangars at the Milton-based facility.

In the summer, it is a veritable beehive of activity, frequented by horse owners, jockeys, affluent summer residents and musicians performing at the nearby Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Officials in charge of managing the 180-acre, county-owned property say they can and want to do more, though, and that the time has come to bring the airport to the next level.

"I see this place as providing a real opportunity for the people of Saratoga County," said Frank Zilka, the president of North American Flight Services, the airport's fixed base operator. "It really shouldn't be overlooked."

Zilka and others in charge of running the airport are working on a new business plan now that is intended to address several issues that officials say need to be overcome in order to attract new business.

The push to improve the facility is taking on greater urgency now because GlobalFoundries is in the midst of building a \$4.6 billion computer-chip factory just 10 miles east of the airport, and the amount of corporate travel coming into the area is on the rise.

Airport officials say the company's top leaders are now using the Albany International Airport to fly in and out of the area - something they estimate cost the county up to \$25,000 a year in sales taxes last year.

Their hope now is to capture that business, as well as that of any other new company looking to move into the area, by improving and more aggressively marketing the facility.

"As new businesses come in, they have to know we're here," said Dave Toney, North American's business manager. "It's all about awareness. If they know we're here they'll come, but a lot of people still have never even heard of us."

The most pressing infrastructure issue that airport operators say has to be addressed is the clearing of trees that surround the airport and reach into approach space, preventing nighttime and instrument-based landings that occur in low-visibility weather.

The effort to clear some of the trees began last year after a landing plane hit some trees and nearly crashed, but is still not complete.

Nighttime and low-visibility landings are still barred at the facility by the Federal Aviation Administration, which could provide more grant money to continue the effort.

"That has to be a priority, because it's a safety issue," said Zilka, whose company pays the county \$75,000 a year to serve as the airport's operator and run chartered flights from the facility.

Airport leaders also want to find a way to regulate increasingly dangerous glider activity, extend the runways to accommodate larger aircraft and find a way to clear grass on either side of the landing strip to limit wildlife that sometimes enter the landing area.

The area is designated as a wildlife refuge for the endangered Karner Blue butterfly, and airport officials are only allowed to mow the property once a year.

How much all of the work could cost may be determined through the study that is being done now. Whatever the expense, though, proponents of improving the facility say it would be money well spent.

The FAA usually takes care of 95 percent of the costs, and any investment by the county would likely pay for itself by generating new tax income, they say. Between fuel sales, hotel rooms and meals, airport officials estimate every landing translates into \$2,500 in sales tax revenue for the county.

"You could spend a little and make a lot, which I don't think is a bad business deal," Zilka said this week on a relatively quiet weekday morning at the airport.

Officials at the Warren County Airport say they, too, see their operation as an economic driver, although they are not a direct competitor to Saratoga County and will not likely get much of a boost from GlobalFoundries.

"People always choose to go to their closest destination and Saratoga is just far enough away that it never comes down to a question of, 'Am I going to Saratoga or am I going to Warren County?'" said Rich Schermerhorn, the president of the Queensbury airport's fixed base operator, Rich Air.

Still, Schermerhorn said he sees an opening to similarly capitalize on the region's growth and attract more traffic to the airport in the coming years as Lake George's allure grows and more companies locate in the area.

His company has already put nearly \$2 million into new heated hangers, a self-service fuel station, de-icing equipment and renovations to the building used by staff, pilots and passengers to help

attract more business.

Plans are in the works now for a \$5 million to \$6 million runway extension that could allow larger aircraft to use the airport.

Constantly improving, said airport manager Don DeGraw, will be a vital part of sustaining and enhancing the local economy.

"It's an important piece of the puzzle," DeGraw said. "A local economy is just not going to function to its full potential without a well-run airport."

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Posted in Local, Saratoga on *Thursday, January 6, 2011 3:59 pm* Updated: 11:26 pm. | Tags: Milton, Airport, Globalfoundries, Saratoga County Airport, Federal Aviation Administration

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TRAVEL BRIEFCASE

Crowded airliners and enhanced airport security cause shift to charter jets and rental cars

Also: Airline fees cost Thanksgiving weekend travelers an estimated \$167 million, and two airlines offer deals on alcoholic beverages in December.

By Hugo Martín, Los Angeles Times

November 29, 2010

advertisement

With commercial airliners more crowded and heightened security measures threatening long delays at airports, private charter jet companies and rental car agencies may be beneficiaries of the growing airport headaches.

A Zogby International poll released last week found that 42% of likely voters said that enhanced pat-down search techniques and the increased use of full-body scanners by the Transportation Security Administration would cause them to use a different mode of transportation.

The trade groups that represent private charter jets and rental car businesses say the switch has already begun.

Demand for charter jets is up 52% so far in November over the same period last year, said Joe Leader, president of the Air Taxi-Air Charter Assn., a trade group for charter jet companies.

"The majority of that can be credited to an increase in business travel and economic recovery, but the TSA security hassle factor has absolutely had an additive effect on air taxi and air charter demand," he said.

Meanwhile, the American Car Rental Assn. reported an increase of 6% to 11% in rental business so far in November over the same period last year, an improvement that association Executive Director Sharon Faulkner attributes partly to the growing hassles of air travel.

You can blame the airport headaches on a rebounding economy and new security threats.

As the economy has begun to pick up steam, business travelers and vacationers who stayed close to home during the depths of the recession have begun to fly again, but airlines have resisted adding planes to

REFERRALS - FEBRUARY 2011

AIRPORT:

- 1) Committee authorized further studies relating to the benefits of procuring an easement on the Forest Enterprises parcel, as well as to consider the possibility of an exchange of properties. Messrs. Dusek and DeGraw to meet with property owners on the matter in March/April of 2011 and will provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting. (10.26.10)
- 2) Committee authorized letter to the Balloon Festival Committee asking that they fund 50% of the projected overtime costs of \$21,000 for the 2011 event and also noting desire to place donation barrels throughout Airport property during the event to encourage visitor contributions. Status. (10.26.10)
- 3) Mr. DeGraw to contact appropriate property owner relative to securing a ROW to introduce another access road to the Airport property. (12.02.10)