

**Minutes**  
**Airport Advisory Board**  
**September 19, 2016**

On this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016, at 3:00 p.m., the Airport Advisory Board of the City of Devine convened in a meeting, and the following members thereof, being present:

Vicki Pumphrey, Airport Manager  
Glen Dale Estep, Chairman  
Bill Bain, Vice-Chairman  
C.E. (Curly) Brehm  
Hap Squires  
Greg Coyne

Absent being, Board Member Tony Crosby; thus, constituting a quorum.

Personnel present: William L. Herring, Mayor; Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; Tom Cate, City Attorney; Ismael Carrillo, Director of Public Works; Raul Garcia, City Engineer; and Ofilia Pedroza, UB Clerk.

Others present: Marly Davis, Devine News; Megan McLellan, TxDOT Aviation; Eldora Brehm, David and Erich Ehlinger, Kirt Ragsdale, James R. Spurgers; Joe Munoz; Joey Munoz, Jr.; David Reyna, Jr.; Chris Yanta; Mario McGee; and Bernardo Ainslie.

Chairman Glen Dale Estep called the meeting to order.

The first order of business was to discuss and consider approval of minutes for March 25, 2014.

The Board reviewed the minutes.

Motion by Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm, seconded by Board Member Greg Coyne to approve the minutes as read.

Ayes	--	Six
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Tony Crosby

Motion carried.

The second order of business was to discuss and consider appointing a Chairman.

Board Member Bill Bain nominated C.E. Curly Brehm to be the new Chairman.

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Board Member Hap Squires inquired if Curly was pulling out of his association with the airport and Curly's answer to that was "absolutely not." Mr. Hap Squires said he didn't have a problem with Curley, he just wanted to make sure that it wasn't someone who no longer has any association with the airport. Board Member Bill Bain commented that his own association with the airport is less and less, but he still has his hangar. He added that Curly is out there a lot more than he is and Curly has a lot more association with the rest of the Board than he does.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Board Member Bill Bain, seconded by Board Member Hap Squires to appoint C.E. (Curly) Brehm as the new Chairman.

Ayes	--	Six
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Tony Crosby

Motion carried.

Discussion was held after the motion on whether Board Member C. E. (Curly) Brehm wanted to take over as Chairman tonight or wait until the next meeting. He said he wanted Board Member Bill Bain to continue the meeting for tonight.

The third order of business was to discuss and consider appointing a Secretary.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm nominated Board Member Hap Squires for Secretary, and there were no other nominations.

Motion by Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm, seconded by Board Member Greg Coyne to appoint Board Member Hap Squires as Secretary.

Ayes	--	Six
Nays	--	None
Absent	--	One – Board Member Tony Crosby

Motion carried.

Board Member Tony Crosby arrived at 3:08 p.m.

The fourth order of business was to discuss and consider applying for a TxDOT Aviation Grant and the use of the grant.

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Mayor Herring addressed the Board and introduced Megan McLellan with TxDOT Aviation. He also introduced Tom Cate, City Attorney; Dora V. Rodriguez, Interim City Administrator/City Secretary; Denise Duffy, City Accountant; Raul Garcia, City Engineer; Ismael Carrillo, Director of Public Works and the press, Marly Davis.

Megan McLellan then addressed the Board. She explained that she made a visit to the airport earlier this month and met everyone. She said the airport is in the federal program so it receives federal funding, which is good news. She said that every four years, if the money is not used, it expires; it's called Non-Primary Entitlement. So the airport gets \$150,000.00 a year, which can accrue up to four years and then it starts expiring. She explained that we did a transfer so TxDOT can get a hold of those funds instead of it going back to the FAA because we know the Airport wants to move forward and if TxDOT has the funding, we can help the project. She stated, "We want you to use the money that's there for you." She explained that pretty much the FAA and TxDOT, as the middle person, work from the runway out, so that's how they assess airport needs. She said the runway does need a rehabilitation marking; it was last done in 2002. She said we need to try to do this every six to eight years, and we are way beyond that. She said it's in good shape but it needs a little TLC right now, so she thinks that with a rehabilitation it should be good to go. Ms. McLellan told the Board that she is here to help in any way that she can and to offer TxDOT services.

Board Member Bill Bain inquired what needs to be done in order to initiate this.

City Attorney Tom Cate addressed Board Member Bill Bain and explained that they first need to set their priorities as to what they need at the airport. Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez added that Megan is pretty much telling us that the first thing that needs to be done is the runway.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm agreed with this. Board Member Bill Bain added that they know that it needs to get done and it's pretty costly, but inquired as to when we would get started with that process. Ms. McLellan informed the Board that TxDOT actually makes it easy for them; she said all they need is to have a request from the City and a response from the Airport. She said TxDOT will then do the scoping and estimating, and then TxDOT will help along the process. Board Member Bill Bain asked Mayor Herring if the Airport can request that of the City, to make that request, and Mayor Herring responded, "Yes."

Motion by Board Member Tony Crosby, seconded by C.E. (Curly) Brehm to approve for the City to contact TxDOT with respect to requesting the runway rehabilitation/resurfacing, and to do the letter as soon as possible.

Ayes	--	Seven
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.

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Discussion was held after the motion. Ms. Megan McLellan added that if there are two needs that the Airport has, they can put in a couple of requests. She said she wasn't sure if they just wanted to have a runway rehabilitation and have an engineer at the airport, and then another request. Board Members C.E. (Curly) Brehm and Bill Bain responded that they do have some other things.

The fifth order of business was to discuss the Airport RAMP Grant.

Board Member Bill Bain held discussion on postponing this item until the next meeting. Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm recommended to have another meeting in one month.

Megan McLellan added that she just wanted to clarify that there are two Megans at TxDOT: she (Megan McLellan) is in Planning, and Megan Caffall is the RAMP Coordinator for the Maintenance Program.

The sixth order of business was to discuss and consider request made by David Ehlinger for Aviation Fuels, Inc. to manage, operate own at Devine City Airport.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm recognized Senior Chief David Ehlinger, Retired, who owns Golden Rule Air Conditioning, and also recognized his son (Erich Ehlinger) who is an accomplished pilot who has flown all over the world. David also owns an airplane and has a definite interest in the Airport. He is also in the process of buying into Aviation Fuels, Inc., which is C.E. (Curley) Brehm's corporation.

Mr. Ehlinger addressed Council and gave a very brief summary of his 20+ years in the Navy. He said his interest is for fuel at Devine Airport. He said he does want to manage, operate and own the corporation as a private owner but it's going to take some coordination with Megan and her office. He wants a bid on the table, he wants to talk about it, and if the city has some objections out there, he's willing to talk about it. He said he understands that everybody has budgets, he wants to work with the constraints of those budgets. He explained that their initiative is taking the northwest end of the airport, right on the county road, which is a pie-shaped trash lot, and utilize that land as a fuel station. He said that is the best and most efficient location for that. He said a self-serve can be done there, a ramp can run right up to it, and people can fuel as they so desire. His intent, he said, is to have two places of fueling. He explained that the on the north side of where the hangar ramps are could be a second point of fueling but that would be a mobile truck that he would operate and run. He stated that it's going to take some time; he wants people to talk about it and he wants it to be in the public open for discussion and consideration.

Mr. Ehlinger said it looks like the transition of Aviation Fuels, Inc. is all coming together and will happen by the first of next month, which means that they will have opportunities for tenants to rent hangars. He emphasized that what happens if there is no fuel out there, is that the tenants will all go away. So, their initiative is to have fuel out there, and it's a priority.

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Mr. Ehlinger told the Board that he appreciated that Megan McLellan with TxDOT was here tonight to hear that they want fuel at Devine Airport, and that they have someone here with interest to get it moving. In working with the City of Devine, he understands they have budgetary constraints and they want to consider that as part of this package. He said his point today was to get it out in the open for discussion, and hearing any objections.

Mr. Ehlinger pointed out safety, safety, safety by putting the fuel station at the northwest end of the airfield. He said fire response is quick, and mentioned that the fire department is working on another location that will be closer by the high school, which is exciting for them. He added that he feels this is a win-win situation for everybody. We have the opportunity to start fueling aircraft and bringing in more opportunities for flying out there. He asked for any questions from the Board.

Mr. Chris Yanta addressed the Board and introduced himself as a pilot at the Devine Airport. He wanted to know who owns Aviation Fuels, Inc., and who was on the Board. Mr. Ehlinger's response to that was that right now, that would be Mr. C.E. (Curly) Brehm.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm addressed the question and reported that Aviation Fuels, Inc. is not owned, it's a corporation and it's owned by the stockholders. When he asked who the stockholders were, C.E. (Curly) Brehm responded that he did not have that information. Mr. Yanta asked if it was a public corporation, and C.E. (Curly) Brehm said that it was, but added that if he was asking if it's listed on the New York stock exchange, the answer to that is "no."

Ms. Megan McLellan inquired of Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm if the business is an FBO or a flight school. Mr. Brehm spoke of Mr. Erich Ehlinger, David's son, who has just finished flight school training. And, his answer was "yes." He said there will be a flight school and also an FBO. He said the other gasoline he's talking about in a truck is to service his FBO customers. He said Devine has never had an FBO.

Discussion was held between Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm and Airport Manager Vicki Pumphrey regarding FBO's with and without gas at the airport. According to Ms. Pumphrey, Air Maintenance was an FBO.

Mr. David Ehlinger then introduced Mr. Mario McGee and his partner, Bernard Ainslie, who are both out of Castroville Airport, and said he had asked them to come and speak about the priority on importance of fuel on station. He and Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm both spoke very highly of Mr. McGee. And, he said that both these gentlemen make up Mario's Aviation at the Castroville Airport.

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Mr. Mario McGee addressed the Board. He told them that having fuel is an issue that's a challenge, and he feels it would be very beneficial for Devine to have fuel on-site and also be able to generate some revenue for the City in addition to what we already have. He said it can be done safely there and feels that the facilities are accommodating for the fuel sales with easy access for the planes and customers when they get there. He mentioned that it can also bring in different revenue. For example, he said there are times when the flight schools out of San Antonio will fly over Devine, and it would be advantageous and economically sound.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm asked Mr. McGee if he thought this would bring in more aircraft into the Devine Airport for tie down, rental space and a place to keep their airplane. Mr. McGee's response was "Certainly." He explained that the rest of the airports in the city all around the San Antonio basin area are full, and it's very expensive for people to operate their airplane. Board Member

C.E. (Curly) Brehm asked him if he knew how much San Antonio charges to tie down an airplane. He didn't know off the top of his head but said that hangar rental spaces are running close to \$500 - \$550. He said the cheapest one at Stinson Airport is at \$380. He said Devine is a great outlet; fuel does make a difference. He said pilots love getting economical fuel and Devine would be an ideal place for that.

Board members then heard from Bernie Ainsley. He told the Board that getting fuel at the airport is a big decision-making item for someone who wants to base their aircraft here or there. He said it's only a seven minute flight to Castroville but it would still motivate people to come here and base their aircraft here and possibly build their hangar here. As far as the Devine Airport is concerned, Mr. Ainsley said that fuel is the next step for Devine.

Mr. David Ehlinger added that the Devine Airport has got to get fuel; we've got to have fuel on station available to the customer. He said that is the main emphasis he wants to relay and the importance of elevating it to the highest degree.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm briefly hinted about Aviation Fuels, Inc. being considered for a major corporation coming in and doing major work there.

Board Member Hap Squires commented that he went to Castroville recently and was amazed as to how much their airport has grown in the last 8-10 years. Board members held brief discussion on the Castroville Airport.

Mr. Bernie Ainsley commented that according to case studies on similar cities across the county the size of Devine, they always show that the airport always grows before the city grows. So, he said, if we were to add fuel in order to improve access to the airport, it will flow down to growth in the city. He said studies show that investments done to the airport will economically flow down to the City, so it's something to consider.

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Mayor Herring inquired if there used to be fuel at the airport before and, if so, wanted to know why it was removed.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm explained that it was removed because of an underground storage tank that was leaking. But, following an investigation, it was found there was no evidence of any leakage. He spoke of a law passed 20 years ago called LUST (Large Underground Storage Tanks). He explained that now all tanks need to be built above ground in a contained area. He went on to say that we still have the tanks and he could add fuel at the airport this afternoon if he wanted. However, he can't take a \$20.00 per hour man to fill up an aircraft. He said that's the reason we need a self-service facility.

Mayor Herring added, "You need a computerized system similar to what Devine ISD has; when I was a bus driver, you had to punch in your number to get fuel." Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm said that is exactly what they need; a credit card.

Mayor Herring and Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm held brief discussion on requests for proposals; we've not received any. According to Mr. Brehm, we could buy fuel tomorrow at Three Rivers. He said he has a license but the City does not need a license.

Board Member Bill Bain added, "But we've got to have a place to put it, legally." He then asked Megan McLellan if the fuel facility we are discussing would come under her or the other "Megan" with TxDOT Aviation. Ms. McLellan responded that it could be both, but explained that if we are going to do the runway first, we need to save our money up again because we can only use that NPE towards fuel, and that's a 75% match. She said it's a 75/25 so the City will have to obviously budget for that.

Board Member Bill Bain asked Megan, "Are we to a point where we can request for you and other TxDOT personnel to come down to talk to us about where to put it and what is available, maybe not this year but next year?" He said he knows it's going to take a lot to put all of this together. He asked, "Are we premature in asking you to come down and talk to us and tell us what you would require of us to go to the City for this request; so what would we need to do to get you all involved in this process that we are talking about?"

According to Megan McLellan, her boss is City Administration, so she explained that the Airport Advisory Board would need to get City Council approval first, so the Mayor and Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez would need to request that from TxDOT. She said they don't act until they act. He asked if they could act on that tonight, but Mayor Herring informed them that it was not on the agenda tonight to discuss and consider purchasing fuel.

Board Member Bill Bain said we can put purchasing fuel on the next meeting agenda where we can make it official. He said we've got the runway going so we can start that process. He added that when we have our next meeting, we'll make sure fuel is on the agenda appropriately where we can request the City to make a request for TxDOT to come down and talk to us about a fuel facility.

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Ms. Megan McLellan advised that they are always happy to help in any way. She added that when they do the runway project, they will have airport engineers on site, so they can probably help site as well.

Discussion was held among Board members on having another meeting in the next two to three weeks to request for the City to move forward with the folks in Austin to help us out with that. But, we can start on the runway project.

The seventh order of business was to discuss and consider who is responsible for maintaining around the hangars. Mr. David Ehlinger reported that he was out at the airport on a Saturday and he cleaned up a lot of brush, grass, trees and cactus, and even cleaned between two of the hangars. The Board appreciated it and thanked him for doing this.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm brought up that there seems to be some hard feelings between Maintenance and the Airport operators. He said he has never been on an airport where the grass wasn't mowed. Mayor Herring advised that he needs to discuss it with the Interim City Administrator and the Public Works Director, along with getting legal advice from City Attorney Tom Cate.

Board Member Tony Crosby commented that he's reported to the City at least twice in the last few years, that the fence all around the airport is being destroyed by cactus. He reported that he has maintained all of the fence between his property and the city's property. It hasn't cost him anything but his concern is that the cactus is literally destroying the fence, especially on the main entrance, and he said that no one has done anything about it.

Mayor Herring stated that he's not familiar with the fine details of the Devine Airport, and said he would refer that to our Director of Public Works Ismael Carrillo and Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez and City Attorney Tom Cate.

Board Member Hap Squire commented that the way he reads his lease is that he is leasing 7,500 square feet which is the building and the ground underneath that building, and he said that is all that he is leasing. He added that even though he is maintaining the grass around it, it is not his grass; it is the City's grass.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm added that the only operator on the airport who owns other than under their own hangar is Aviation Fuels, Inc. He said everything else belongs to the City.

City Attorney Tom Cate addressed the Board. He stated that he agrees with Board Member Hap Squires and said that he believes that the people who have the ground leases out there are responsible for the ground that is being leased, and then the City is going to be responsible for the common areas. Regarding the fence, he stated that the City needs to take care of that and stated he wasn't sure if a work order was put in. Some discussion was held on this.

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Board Member Tony Crosby stated that something we may want to think about considering all these other projects, is that it might be a situation where we've waited this long and what comes out of this is that the fence will be eliminated or we need to put up a different type of fence (like cyclone) because the deer can go through it very quickly.

According to City Attorney Tom Cate, that would be another airport improvement. He added that as far as maintaining what we've got, the City would be responsible for the common areas and the people who have the leases would be responsible for their ground lease area.

Board Member Hap Squires inquired for clarification purposes if the ground lease is just underneath the building, if we are not responsible for mowing our yard. Tom's response was that this is correct. More discussion was held on some owners who still like to mow their areas. Board Member Bill Bain addressed Interim City Administrator/City Secretary Dora V. Rodriguez and Public Works Director Ismael Carrillo and mentioned that they need to visit with each other regarding this to see if they can help out the City. He said they've ignored it but are willing to put some kind of schedule in place and maybe work with the City. This was okay per Ismael Carrillo, Public Works Director.

The eighth order of business was Informational Items.

- Construction of a new hangar – Airport Manager Vicki Pumphrey commented that they've got a new hangar being constructed in that last lease area; it's 80 x 100 x 30. She said that right now it is with TxDOT and the FAA, and we'll know in two to three weeks if it's feasible and if they get the go-ahead or not. She said it will be brought forth before any construction is done so that the person who wants it can get the lease.

Board Member Bill Bain asked Ms. Pumphrey if she could explain to those who do not know what she is talking about or where she is talking about. Airport Manager Vicki Pumphrey explained that it is 25 feet past Curly's ramp area and it is the Harris' old hangar lease.

Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm expressed concern on the fact that if they should get approved for fuel, if that would leave them enough space for the fueling. Airport Manager Vicki Pumphrey stated that it should be enough space because it's going to be on the edge and run on the north end; it's going to come off the runway. Further discussion carried among the board members. Ms. Pumphrey explained that nothing is going to happen until they (TxDOT and FAA) approve it, and then the Airport Board goes to the City. So, nothing will happen until we get the green light in two to three weeks that it's going to be built. She explained this is for an individual hangar.

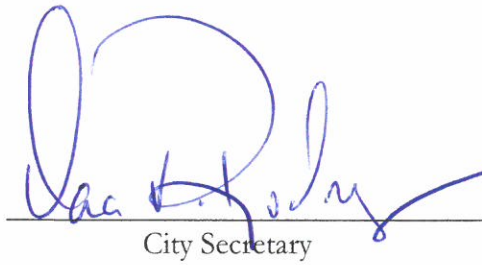
Board Member Bill Bain added that even if they approve it and we like the idea, we might have to tread water until we know more about the fuel situation.

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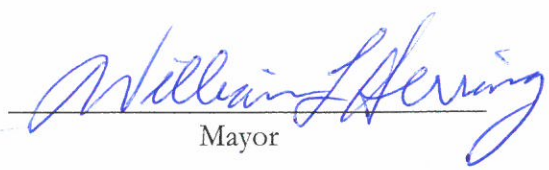
There being no further business to come before the Board, motion was made by Board Member C.E. (Curly) Brehm, seconded by Board Member Greg Coyne to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	--	Seven
Nays	--	None

Motion carried.



\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Airport Manager