



# *Special Committee on the Airport*

May 21, 2013 – 7:00 PM - **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber, Room 213, Municipal Building

**\*\* View Agenda \*\***

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON THE AIRPORT**

**DATE: MAY 21, 2013**

**TIME: 7:10 P.M.**

**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR JAMES OLIVEIRA, CHAIRMAN; DAVID ALVES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; BRUCE DUARTE, JR. (7:10); STEVEN MARTINS**

**ABSENT: COUNCILLOR BRIAN GOMES**

**ALSO PRESENT: Airport Manager Thomas Vick; Compliance Officer Eric Cohen; Chief Financial Officer Ari Sky**

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Councillor Oliveira called the Airport Meeting to order and took attendance. A MEMO from Councillor Gomes stating he would not be in attendance due to a prior commitment was read into the record and was received and placed on file by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Martins.

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Items number 1 and 2 were taken up at the same time and received and placed on file on motion, by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Martins.

Discussion, regarding meeting with Thomas Vick and Compliance Officer Eric Cohen as to what efforts are being or will be made to ensure that local labor will be used as much as possible when the development projects at the Airport begin and a full briefing on the status of New Bedford Regional Airport for upcoming Fiscal Year 2014, to include any anticipated future budgetary/personnel needs. (1, 2)

Airport Manager Mr. Thomas Vick passed out an overview of the proposed FY14 budget, which was received and placed on file on motion by Councillor Alves and seconded by Councillor Martins.

Mr. Vick explained that he is seeking to fund a position of Assistant Airport Manager due to the fact that he has been running the airport day in and day out since he came on board as the manager. Due to the requirements that the Federal Aviation Administration puts on airport managers and assistant managers to be at the airport in order to make specific decisions when the warning of a snow storm is made, it is extremely difficult for only one person to hold that responsibility. Additionally, running the day to day operations on a constant basis limits his available time to truly grow and develop new business for the airport.

Chief Financial Officer Ari Sky also stressed the need for the position of Assistant Airport Manager.

Councillor Alves asked Mr. Vick if he had met with Dagny Ashley, Director of Marketing & Tourism for the City. He indicated there had been phone conversations, but no real meeting or strategy session. He hopes to soon though, when his time is hopefully freed up a bit by the addition of an Assistant Manager. He did indicate that Cape Air is currently running a lot of television advertisements. He then went on to explain that there is money built into the budget for contractual staffing, should the sequester kick in but he does hope it will not be necessary and that Congress will “come to its senses.”

Eric Cohen, the City’s Compliance Officer spoke to the Committee about his goals and plans on how to ensure that as many local workers are hired to work on the airport improvement project as possible. Mr. Cohen explained the difficulties and strategies involved in encouraging/requiring that the companies who are hired to do the work, in turn hire local workers. He explained that contractors need only demonstrate that they made a “good faith effort” to hire local personnel for the project.

Councillor Oliveira asked Mr. Cohen if he would please forward a memo/report to the Committee on a monthly basis as to what the numbers of city residents are that are working on projects like this to which Mr. Cohen said he would do so.

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Councillor Alves made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Martins.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees