

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY AIRPORT DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 9, 2017 @ 4:30**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Paul Valovich called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Present were: Directors Paul Valovich, Jim Paris, Axel Alvarez, Russ Bates, General Manager Scott Seymour, Assistant General Manager Nicole Hale and District Counsel via conference Scott Nave.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG WAS LED BY DIRECTOR BATES**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Approval of minutes of Regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2017, Special Board Meeting of January 17, 2017 and waive further reading of the minutes.**
- B. Approval /Ratification Of Payment Register for Jan 17**
- C. Approval/Ratification of Financial Reports: Jan 17**

Motion was made by Director Bates, seconded by Director Paris

**TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS AS PRESENTED**

Motion was passed by voice vote: 4 ayes, 1 absent

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. ALION PRESENTATION**

Representatives from Alion Science and Technology, Christopher Amos and Charlie Mark presented to the Board as well as the public their idea to utilize Inyokern Airport to support foreign international military allies operations while they conduct their testing at China Lake. They would build a campus location for office space and hangars on the North end of the airfield.

Director Valovich opened the question and answer portion to the attendees.

Reporter Rebecca Neipp asked how many customers the campus would support at one time, Amos replied it would support five or six customers at a time in the beginning similar to China Lake's partners.

Steven Rainey – tenant – Questioned if they would be interacting with foreign military sales on the base. Amos confirmed it would absolutely be integrated and stated they

have already had many conversations with base personnel and would attempt to get an MOU to work together.

Mike Cash – Does our current Fire Department meet their requirements for fire rescue support, Amos believes that will be sufficient.

Rick Silong - Will the field become a controlled airfield, Amos did not know the answer to that. It may potentially only have a controlled tower at certain times. Director Valovich commented that there are many operational aspects that need to be looked into and the details would be considered to keep the airfield at the safest possible.

Char Spencer – tenant – How many flight operations are expected per day, Amos commented initially it would be 2-4 on weekdays. Char questioned if at any time runways would be closed as a result of operations, Amos said he did not see that happening. Char expressed concern as to which direction the airport is heading.

Jayson Brouchoud – tenant – Do you expect any addition restrictions to the airspace or restrictions placed on the tenants, Amos expressed his team does not anticipate changing any existing airspace or operational aspects to tenants. They may have temporary arresting gear set up as needed.

Mark Backes – tenant – Is this a NavAir funded project, Amos stated that is not. Alion is providing all necessary funding. He also asked when they would be presenting the Board with a step by step plan of the expected process and details, Amos replied that if the Board would be willing to accept such an offer, one would be prepared within the next 2-3 following months; Alion is currently trying to open the lines of communication and see if the Board is receptive to such a proposal before proceeding.

Matt Pasztalaniec – tenant – Stated that it is hard to form an opinion or make a decision without many details, Amos replied the goal of this evening was simply to open communication to figure out if there is a way to move forward. Matt questioned if there was any operation similar to what they are proposing existing at this point in time to set use as an example, Amos admitted there was none to his knowledge. Matt expressed it sounded like a recipe for disaster. Director Alvarez stated that he would do some research regarding the issue.

Kevin Johnson – tenant – Would there be additional airport security, Amos expressed there would be no change to tenant access, but there would be additional fencing and security on their site.

Donna Hocker – Expressed appreciation for presenting this opportunity to the community.

Butch Spoons – tenant – What are the current runway/taxiway designed for and what sort of damage would these aircraft present. We are working on the answer for that with our Engineer.

Steven Rainey – tenant – Would there be night operations and what sort of noise volume should we expect, Amos stated that he believed they would work in accordance with the base range which would be during the weekdays from 7AM – 4PM. Director Alvarez advised it would not be appropriate to answer for the customer as there is no way to tell what support they will need.

John Ross – Who retains final authority on which customers are able to access the campus, Director Valovich stated that he is not clear on that answer at this point. Amos stated that no one would have access that was prior authorized.

Char Spencer – tenant – The airspace is a small area between the Sierras and the restricted air space, the proposed aircraft would not be able to see and avoid as is the current way operations are done. Director Valovich stated that is one of the biggest concerns we are facing with mingling the multiple types of aircraft.

Brian Cepaitis – tenant – There are a lot of concern with lacking details on operations and safety, there needs to be a way to express these to the Board to research. Director Alvarez expressed he requested public's attendance so that everyone heard the same pitch together and move forward, all comments/concerns/questions can be directed to Nicole's email.

Director Valovich advised the Board would be forming a committee to focus on gathering additional information and working the details to present to the Board and public.

Director Bates questioned if our funding would support these sort of operations or if we would lose FAA funding.

Char Spencer – tenant – Does not want this operation to push out the “little guys”

Matt Pasztalaniec – tenant – If there is no NavAir funding, does the decision to move forward with this rest in the hands of the Board of Directors, Director Valovich expressed we would not do anything to infringe on the mission of the base, so we would seek their support and be informed, but it is the Airport Board decision.

Butch Spoons – tenant – Would there be a control room/data link, Amos said not initially, but possible sometime in the future.

Peggy Breeden – Expressed support for the Board to make the best decision for the airport and community and would encourage everyone to keep an open mind.

Director Paris – Do you plan on doing any captive carriage going out on the range, Director Valovich said there would be no live ordnance, Amos advised there was no plans to have captive carry.

Butch Spoons – tenant – Would Alion be building their own fuel farm, Seymour advised the customers would be purchasing fuel from the District.

Char Spencer – tenant – Does the airport need an operation like this for financial assistance, Seymour stated we do not.

Steve Rainey – tenant – Will the County impact District funding by bringing this to the airfield, Seymour advised we get zero funding from the County. The District is its own government entity, the County surrendered all control when it was no long Kern County Airport and Indian Wells Valley Airport District was formed.

**5. MANAGERS REPORT:** Seymour noted that the gate project is complete after a few bumps had to be worked out. We will not have a project next year. There are six days of filming scheduled for next week. The operations being hosted in Hangar 2 are going well, group is happy with the accommodations and plan on returning. There are close to 100 days of special operations scheduled from February to the end of August.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORT:** None

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**8. BOARD COMMENT:**

Director Alvarez expressed thanks to the community for their attendance and stating their concerns and comments. Please contact Nicole to get on the airport mailing list to keep updated.

Director Bates echoed thanks to the public for their attendance and Alion for their presentation

Director Paris thanked Alion and public for attendance

Director Valovich once again thanked the public for their attendance. He stated the Board would move forward with the understanding that there needs to be many answers and details sorted out before a decision would be made. The operational aspect of this proposal must be solid. Valovich also advised that the District is in the

process of gaining airline service back to the airport and would not introduce anything that may discourage them from starting up service.

**9. CLOSED SESSION: Real Property Negotiations – Mokulele Airlines**

**10. DISTRICT COUNSEL:** In closed session, the Board discussed real property negotiations with Mokulele Airlines. No other items were discussed.

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by Director Paris, seconded by Director Bates

**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:41 PM**

Motion was passed by voice vote: 4 ayes, 1 absent