

MINUTES OF THE FOOTHILLS REGIONAL AIRPORT LTD. SPECIAL MEETING

March 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Foothills County Administration Office - M02/M03

Present: FC Deputy Reeve Don Waldorf
Member at Large Richard Pittet
Member at Large Dennis Fox
Member at Large Myron Stadnyk

Absent: FC Councillor Rob Siewert

Administration: FC Legislative Services Assistant Krista Conrad
FC Manager of Parks & Recreation Jeff Porter

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Foothills Regional Airport Board held a Special Meeting on March 25, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Chair D. Waldorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. **EMERGENT ITEM**

Resolution: 21

Moved by: Myron Stadnyk

That the Board add Regional Airport Support and Funding as an emergent item to the March 25, 2024 Special Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Resolution: 22

Moved by: Richard Pittet

That the agenda of the March 25, 2024 Foothills Regional Airport Board Special Meeting be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS**

4.1 Emergency Response Plan

J. Porter presented the draft Emergency Response Plan for the Foothills Regional Airport to the Board. It was developed in consultation with the County's emergency management team and emergency management agencies such as area fire departments, RCMP, and Alberta Health Services. He stated any revisions to the protocol and policies will come to the Board for ratification, but amendments to contact information for agencies or representatives will be handled on an as-needed basis.

D. Waldorf asked how the Emergency Response Plan relates to special events held at the airport.

J. Porter stated the rules for special events would be based upon how many people are attending and the types of activities being considered for the event. If an event is open to the public it would require notification to the emergency management agencies, and proper security would have to be on-site to protect the airside as well as traffic control to ensure there is no parking on roadways. Events would be subject to the completion of a special events licence application.

J. Porter explained the training schedule for the Emergency Response Plan will occur over several years, beginning with tabletop exercises.

Resolution: 23

Moved by: Myron Stadnyk

That the Board approve the Emergency Response Plan for the Foothills Regional Airport and recommend Foothills County Council adopt the plan as presented.

CARRIED

4.2 Regional Airport Support and Funding

D. Waldorf presented information on a working group of municipalities advocating to the Province for support for regional airports, with a deadline of April 12. A letter has been written by Mountain View County to the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors Devin Dreesen requesting an increase in Provincial support of regional airports and the Community Airport Program (CAP). A working group has been formed, and D. Waldorf has volunteered to participate.

R. Pittet expressed concern that only about 30% of applications for project under CAP are approved and funded. There was a time every county received support for airports, but that support has been pulled back over the years.

D. Waldorf shared there was talk during a meeting with MLA Shane Getson regarding the importance of regional airports and the need for increased focus on the airports and their value to municipalities and the province.

J. Porter recommended supporting the advocacy effort because one group made up of many voices is more impactful than individual municipalities sending in separate communications.

R. Pittet suggested the key focus of the working group should be on securing more CAP funding.

Resolution: 24

Moved by: Richard Pittet

That the Board recommend Foothills County Council add its support to the letter from Mountain View County to the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors Devin Dreesen requesting an increase in Provincial support of regional airports and the Community Airport Program.

CARRIED

5. ADJOURNMENT

Chair D. Waldorf adjourned the March 25, 2024 Foothills Regional Airport Board Special Meeting at 9:33 a.m.