



**CHAVES COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

William E. Cavin, Chair  
Jeff Bilberry, Vice Chairman



Dara Dana, Member  
T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member  
Richard C Tavior. Member

William B. Williams, County Manager

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**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

**ROSWELL CONVENTION AND CIVIC CENTER  
912 N MAIN, ROSWELL, NM 88201**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Cavin called the meeting to order in the lobby of the Roswell Convention and Civic Center at 3:53 pm. Those present were, Commissioners Cavin, Bilberry, Dana, and Taylor. Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, members of the Airport Steering Committee, members of the Roswell City Council, news media, staff, and guests.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Dana moved to approve the special meeting agenda. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

**PRESENTATION**

*Presenter: Joe Neeb, City Manager, City of Roswell, New Mexico*

Joe Neeb stated the Airport Steering Committee met ten times to get this report ready. He presented a Power Point with the goals, types of Air Center Operations, recommendations, vision statement, a March 2017 RIAC Economic Feasibility study and action plan, and Steering Committee solution. Judy Stubbs, Chair of the City of Roswell Legal Committee opened the floor for questions.

Commissioner Dana asked Mr. Neeb if they had gone to different sites to visit entities that were like this. Mr. Neeb stated that their group did not visit any sites, the EDC Task Force did. Kyle Armstrong was their representative from that group that went and visited all the Authorities. Commissioner Dana asked if they have looked at other Authorities that have done this. Mr. Neeb stated they took the information from the EDC Task Force and utilized some of that information to come to this solution. Commissioner Dana asked if any of the other Authorities had challenges they were working on because of COVID. Mr. Armstrong responded that they traveled to Authorities in Louisiana and Texas in 2016 and 2017. This was pre-COVID so he can't speak to what challenges they may or may not be facing at this point.

Commissioner Taylor asked if they have studied or visited other communities that have set up a structure like this and reviewed how it has worked for other City/County arrangements. Mr. Neeb stated they did a little research on this and with the joint powers agreement with 911 dispatch we've already developed a framework that works. We can build off that. Commissioner Taylor asked if any studies have been made as far as the cost of a management group. Mr. Neeb stated they stopped short of going into that level of work because different contracted services operate differently. Our Fixed Base Operator at the Air Center right now is AV Flight. They're responsible to sell all the fuel and to manage the embarking and disembarking of the planes that are out there. We get a portion of the money they generate. More than likely there would be some type of management oversight fee plus there would be a sharing of anything that would balance out. Commissioner Taylor stated these are some of the things we need to explore and find out what it will cost for a management deal and some of their recommendations. A lot can be dictated by how the joint powers agreement is set up.

Commissioner Cavin asked how many airport authorities were created 50 years after the airport was handed over to that governmental entity and if any of them had to go through what we would go through if we went to an authority. Kyle Armstrong stated he was not aware of any. There are certainly airports that have transitioned over the last five years that were municipally operated airports that are now under an authority. Mr. Armstrong mentioned the State of Virginia and Louisiana as examples. Commissioner Cavin stated that the recommendation of the joint powers agreement makes sense. His biggest concern is what the cost will be as well as what happens with those current jobs that are out there right now. Mr. Neeb stated that outside of the jobs that are technical air center jobs, those jobs are very easy to absorb into the City as a whole. The individuals with technical skills are marketable to any company that would operate. Based on how the joint powers agreement happens and the RFP, a lot of the jobs can be absorbed within the City and reassigned. Commissioner Cavin thanked the committee for all the time and effort that has been put into this. He stated this is the first stage and if we look to move forward the City Council will need to possibly vote on moving to the second stage.

Senator Tim Jennings referenced a program on 60 Minutes about three Counties in Mississippi that worked together to provide 6,000 jobs in 15 years through building infrastructure. Water, sewer, and power was put in before the Steel Company made their site selection. Soon after the Steel Company came in they got a helicopter plant because they had more infrastructure. We don't have infrastructure. That is how we got the five million dollars. Once we have the infrastructure, they can build plants. We can do this but it's going to take everybody in here as well as Eddy County. We've got it here; all we need is the infrastructure. Infrastructure is where the jobs are. Please google "Golden Triangle in Mississippi". We have the best place in the world. Please help us get the infrastructure in there so we can get our own kids work. We are perfectly situated for this with our College, New Mexico State, UNM, and New Mexico Tech three hours away.

Additional comments were made by the Legal Committee members, City Council members that were present as well as Roswell Mayor, Dennis Kintigh. Commissioner Cavin thanked the Legal Committee Chair for inviting the Commissioners to the meeting and stated they look forward to the next stage and working with the City to try and do great things for this community. The Legal Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the Steering Committees report.

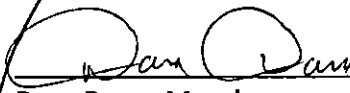
**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

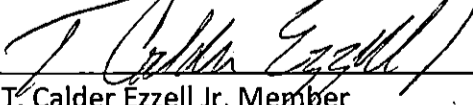
The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.

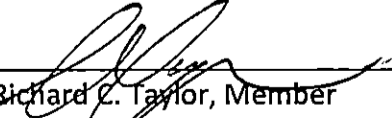
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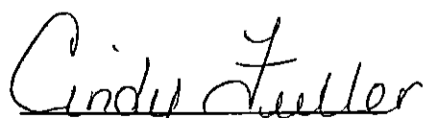
  
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Cindy Fuller  
County Clerk