

Berlin Airport Authority
May 5, 2021

Present were Chair Grenier; Commissioners Otis, Rozek, Eastman and Dube. Commissioners Higbee and Brady were absent.

Others present included Community Development Director Pam Laflamme and Airport Manager Marcel Leveille.

Chair Grenier opened the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes of April 21, 2021 BAA Meeting

Commissioner Rozek moved to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2021 BAA meeting; Commissioner Otis seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call.

Letter from Claude Pigeon ref Engineer of Record, Berlin Airport

Chair Grenier referenced the communication attached from Claude Pigeon and would like it placed on record. (see attached)

Engineer of Record Applicant Interviews

Chair Grenier stated that he would not participate in the interview process for the airport's engineering firm due to a conflict. He indicated that each firm would be given 20 minutes total including the presentation and the Q&A session.

Firms interviewed were: Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Gale Associates, HEB and Stantec.

At the conclusion of the interviews, Chair Grenier gave Airport Manager Marcel Leveille the opportunity to comment. He said that he is comfortable with the firm he is currently working with which is HEB. He stated they are continuing to work with the airport to secure funding which \$200,000 was just recently approved. They are local and have strong interest in the Berlin Airport. Their goal is to save the City of Berlin money. He also commented that all firms really demonstrated a strong sense to work with us. He commented that all firms discussed solar energy which is something he would like to look into.

Commissioner Eastman stated he was originally leaning more towards Stantec based on their qualifications, but after tonight's presentations, he is leaning more towards Gale Associates.

Commissioner Rozek commented that Stantec had all answers to the funding questions. He asked Mr. Leveille if he had seen the Bethel Airport Terminal as Stantec worked on it. Mr. Leveille responded that yes he had seen it and it is very nice and includes a new office space. He stated they did an excellent job on this project.

Commissioner Dube asked Airport Manager Marcel Leveille who he would prefer. Mr. Leveille responded that he has made it pretty clear he would like to remain with HEB. Commissioner Otis stated that there has not been any deficiencies since HEB has been servicing us for the last 10 plus years and doesn't expect any if they were to be selected.

Chair Grenier polled the BAA members as to which firm they were leaning to. He called out the firms and the results were as follows;

Hoyle, Tanner and Associates - No interest from BAA members.

Gale Associates - Commissioners Eastman and Rozek responded yes.

HEB – Commissioners Otis and Dube responded yes.

Stantec – No interest from BAA members.

Commissioner Dube asked if there's been any issues with HEB over the years, Mr. Leveille responded no. Commissioner Dube also commented that there are strengths with all of them. It will come down to which one is the best fit for the Berlin Airport.

Chair Grenier stated one more meeting will need to be scheduled, but asked the team present if they agree to eliminate Hoyle, Tanner & Associates and Stantec based on the poll. The team decided not to eliminate as the other BAA members absent might show interest in these firms. All agreed to scheduling the next meeting May 13, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

The Meeting ended at 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant

Berlin Airport Authority
City of Berlin, NH

April 29, 2021

Re: engineer of record, Berlin Airport

Dear friends

I am writing as a lifelong citizen of Berlin to express my opinion in the above referenced matter. While I understand the need to comply with the FAA's requirements and I applaud your efforts to assure the most prudent use of our resources AND avoid any semblance of misuse, I think there are other significant concepts that must weigh heavily in your deliberations.

My first point is that Jay Poulin has personally donated many hours of his time, as well as staff time, to a variety of projects in Berlin, including the Nansen Ski Jump, the AVH Walk of Life and other notable projects. The value of his contributions is considerable and must surely be well into the 6 figures.

In addition to contributing engineering time, Jay Poulin sits on several local boards and continues to contribute his time and energy to the wellbeing of this community.

Jay is a continuation of a legacy of civic consciousness established by other members of his family.

Another significant point to consider is that any monies spent on engineering with HEB will bounce around this community many times in the form of property taxes, groceries, fuel, and personal expenses of all sorts. Any monies spent on other contenders will leave this community immediately... When I worked for the Community Development Dept. a lifetime ago, we wrote a local bid preference percentage into our bid packages and requests for services. I do not remember the exact percentage, but it gave local firms an advantage and recognized the benefit of keeping money local.

In closing, I will say that loyalty, recognition, and appreciation are noble concepts and are synonymous with favoritism. It's just a difference of context. We are the kind of community that recognizes civic responsibility and outstanding leadership. We are grateful to those who work tirelessly for our greater benefit. We support our own. I hope you will keep these principles in mind in your deliberations.

Respectfully

Claude Pigeon