**ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

A Special meeting of the Ontario International Airport Authority was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2015 in the City Council Chambers at Ontario City Hall, 303 East B Street, Ontario, California.

Notice of said meeting was duly given in the time and manner prescribed by law.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission President Wapner called the Ontario International Airport Authority Special Commission meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioners: Jim W. Bowman, Lucy Dunn

Ronald O. Loveridge and

Alan D. Wapner

ABSENT: Commissioners: Curt Hagman (Mr. Hagman arrived at 2:50 p.m.)

Also present were: Executive Director Al C. Boling, Legal Counsel Thomas Rice, Tim McNamara and Diana Farmer from Boyden Global Executive Search and Assistant Secretary Vicki Kasad.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Hearing no requests to speak from the public, President Wapner recessed the meeting to Closed Session at 2:35 p.m., for discussion of the following:

* GC54957 (b), PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Title: Chief Executive Officer

**RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION**

The Ontario International Airport Authority Commission meeting was reconvened in public session at 3:25 p.m.

President Wapner noted the presence of Ontario Mayor Leon and Mayor pro Tem Dorst-Porada, and Jurupa Valley Council Member Laura Roughton.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Wapner Ontario invited Mayor pro Tem Dorst-Porada to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

Legal Counsel Rice indicated that the matter listed on the agenda was discussed with no reportable action.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were deferred to the Workshop Discussion.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS/DISCUSSION/ACTION**

1. **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION – EXECUTIVE SEARCH**

Secretary Dunn expressed her appreciation for the process and being followed to find an executive to lead ONT. She indicated that candidates must have respect for the industry and emphasized a focus on growing the airport. She was particularly interested in candidates with experience beyond just running a building. She stressed the growth opportunity and economic development potential the airport provides to the region.

Commissioner Hagman suggested looking at a candidate’s ability to develop and redevelop the land around the airport. He noted that the airport is lacking on the international side and suggested that candidates have business contacts and experience dealing with international airlines.

Commissioner Bowman commented that he had similar interests as the other Commissioners and stressed the need to do this right the first time. He stated that the need was not just for an airport person, and indicated that marketing and management skills were the biggest issues for him. He further said that the right person would have to take advantage of economic development opportunities, while working in collaboration with the airlines, both domestic and international, the employees and the staff. He stressed that the overall philosophy starts at the top and permeates the entire organization.

Vice President Loveridge indicated that he wants to see transformative leadership, with the person not just occupying the seat, but changing the dynamics of the airport. He stressed that this is a regional airport and it is critical that the person have an understanding that the airport is the centerpiece of the region.

President Wapner concurred with the need for development and economic development experience. He indicated that he wants a collaborator who will work with other airports throughout Southern California and does not see the airports as competition, but rather as complementing each other within the region. He noted that ONT needs to work with Orange County and San Diego to serve beyond our immediate area as the other airports reach their capacity.

Ontario Mayor pro Tem Dorst-Porada agreed with the Commission comments, and noted that the land around the airport is underutilized and not developed. She stated that it will be an important factor to cutting the costs of the airlines. She also agreed it was important to have someone who is a collaborator that can bring people together.

Council Member Roughton, Jurupa Valley, commented that she was encouraged by the process and seeing the three counties working together. She commended the City of Ontario for initiating the process and stressed that the airport’s impact on the entire region. She supported the comments as presented with regard to the criteria for the executive director. President Wapner thanked Ms. Roughton for the ongoing support from her and her colleagues in Riverside County.

Commissioner Hagman noted that George Dinkins, Director of Airports for San Bernardino County, was also present. Mr. Dinkins commented that he was encouraged that the Authority was looking at candidates from outside the airport industry. He noted that there were probably suitable experts on the aviation side as well.

Ontario Mayor Leon expressed support for the Authority’s efforts to engage stakeholders in the recruitement process. .

Tim McNamara, Boyden Global Executive Search, explained that the intent of this meeting was to have an interactive discussion and obtain input from stakeholders. He gave the timeline for completing the job description and going out to the market place. He anticipated concluding the search around Thanksgiving, with someone on board by the end of the year. He explained that in considering qualifications the Board should consider technical skills, real estate and economic development experience. Contacts on both the passenger and cargo sides of the industry, government affairs proclivity, the cultural fit of potential candidates.

Ms. Farmer called upon each of the stakeholders present for input.

Alejandra Alfaro, Aeromexico, had no comments.

Therese Andrews, Executive Director of Travelers Aid of the Inland Empire, introduced volunteer Jim Painter and noted that her board met and developed a list of factors for consideration as follow: 1) Communication with tenants, vendors and public service agencies. 2) Consideration of safety of ONT patrons and personnel. 3) A customer service culture that will exceed expectations for the Passenger Experience at ONT. 4) Position ONT for the future extension of the Gold Line light rail connection and enhance local public transportation connections. 5) A more comprehensive marketing program that might include a first class website and use of cutting edge technology. 6) Consideration of the guests at ONT to experience first-class service such as more amenities, restaurants and meeting space.

Mike Davis, representing Gavin Cooney, Operating Engineers Local 501, noted that they represent the group that maintains the airport facility. He indicated that the group is looking to maintain labor peace during the transition, while continuing to maintain the facility.

Steve Fulton, Assistant Federal Security Director for TSA, indicated that he represents a small group of stakeholders that work well together. He recommended that the CEO be collaborative to work in partnership with TSA. He also suggested that the CEO must understand security requirements.

John Hall, General Manager of ONT-TEC, stated that his group maintains the aeronautical equipment at the airport. He indicated that from a cost perspective, they would like to see a reduction in bureaucracy. He also recommended that the CEO should be very collaborative.

Trey Hettinger, UPS, thanked the Authority and looked forward to engagement in the process. He indicated that UPS wants a CEO who is collaborative and engaged, with an open door policy. The CEO should be open minded and willing to listen to both sides of an issue, ethical and a person of integrity. He suggested the CEO should focus on the airport, but also be engaged in the community and the area surrounding the airport. Mr. Hettinger offered his assistance in the future.

Steve Hubbell, Director of Properties for Southwest Airlines, congratulated the City and the Authority for reaching agreement with Los Angeles. He indicated that all attributes discussed were important for the new CEO and added that the CEO should be someone with experience in airports. He commented that he wished every city Southwest deals with would approach situations in the same collaborative way.

Scott Kaller, representing Alaska Airlines, stated that Alaska would want someone forward thinking with a focus on service to the passengers. He noted that cutting the bureaucracy would be great for the airlines. He noted the power outage that occurred today as an example and said that the tenants had received no communications from the airport on the situation or estimates of a timeline to correct the outage.

Jim Mog, Sierra Aviation Group, had no comments.

Steve Tomes, Delaware North, had no comments.

Kristen Ramirez, Center Manager for Bob Hope USO Center, noted that she looked forward to the change in ownership, they receive wonderful support from the airport, and would like continued support. She noted that they are located in old Terminal 1 and are a soft target for terrorism, so they would like more police presence. She also noted that they did not hear about the power outage.

Dan La Bouf, General Manager, Guardian Jet Center, indicated that they are enthusiastic about the change in leadership. He stated that they have been at ONT for 15 years and want to extend their lease and build another hangar. He noted that there is opportunity to build and grow avilation. He commented on the process by which planes need to clear customs and stressed the need for a CEO who is visionary and shows leadership.

Jeff Sheferman, Signet, said his company privatizes airports around the world, and he could not think of an airport with more potential than Ontario. He concurred with all comments heard today and noted that “co-opetition” is something they work hard at to see that airports are balanced.

President Wapner confirmed with of Mr. McNamara that he had enough direction, and inquired if he thought the ideal candidate exists.

Mayor Leon thanked Therese Andrews of Traveler’s Aid for her comments, noting that everyone understands and realizes that this airport is a diamond in the rough. He noted the people that have previously been involved in LAWA and suggested what is needed is passion and someone who knows how to reignite the airport. He also said that if given a choice, most people would rather fly out of Ontario than anywhere else. He suggested that there was an opportunity to design modality in the airport to include Metrolink and Gold Line and make ONT the airport of choice in Southern California again.

President Wapner provided an update on the power outage and noted that one of the advantages of having the decision makers close at hand, was getting answers right away. He also offered City support in any way possible during the outage.

President Wapner encouraged airport tenants and stakeholders to provide input and suggestions to Mr. McNamara. He also stressed the Board’s goal to hire the best CEO in the Country.

Vice President Loveridge inquired about the time frame for the recruitment. Mr. McNamara indicated a start date in January 2016, but it could be sooner.

President Wapner reiterated that this was an open process with the job flyer expected for release next week. He thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Wapner adjourned the Ontario International Airport Authority Special Commission meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY

APPROVED:

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ALAN D. WAPNER, PRESIDENT

ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY