

Open Work Session

Reallocation of CARES Grant Funding – Above Ground Fuel Farm Facility

December 21, 2021

Mrs. Hurley said this is a reallocation of CARES grant funding in the amount of \$199,000 to provide for the design and engineering costs of a new above ground fuel farm facility, and to add the project funding to the FY22 Capital Budget and FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Tony Rudy, Airport Manager, came before Council and said they are planning ahead because the fuel farm that exists now is owned and operated by Bay Land Aviation, and their lease is up in 2025. He said, at the end of that lease, they are required either to sell the fuel farm to the County or to someone else, and it has been in the ground for over 30 years now, and the Airport's stance is that they do not want to assume that liability not knowing the condition of the tanks. He said they have been doing some groundwater testing, so there is no contamination and no leaks that they know of at this time; however, 30 years is a long time for a tank to be in the ground. He said their goal is to have those tanks removed at that time, but, in order to keep the Airport operating, obviously, they have to have another fuel farm up and running. He said right now, with the available CARES money they have, they figured it would be a good time to put that to use to fund the preliminary design and engineering work that needs to be done.

Mr. McCain said this says the \$199,000 is for design and engineering. He then asked if removal of the tanks is in the \$199,000, or is that separate, to which Mr. Rudy responded, the removal of the tanks is Bay Land Aviation's responsibility.

Mr. Dodd asked if Bay Land is responsible for the hazard mitigation, if there is any, to which Mr. Rudy responded, that is correct. Mr. Dodd asked if that will fall back on the County, to which Mr. Rudy responded, no.

Mr. Holloway asked if Bay Land has the option to renew their lease, to which Mr. Rudy responded, they do, but they would like to have those tanks out of the ground at that time because of their age and their concerns for possible environmental contamination. He said, actually, at that time it would have to go out to bid, but if Bay Land was chosen to be the FBO at that time, they could use this new facility.

Mr. Holloway said he has a question about above ground fuel tanks on an Airport. He said he knows how sensitive it is to have tanks in the ground because of the environmental concerns, but are above ground tanks at an Airport a danger, to which Mr. Rudy responded, it is a very common practice. He said most tanks are getting out of the ground and being stored above ground, and there is a secondary containment component to this. Mr. Holloway said he knows about the containment, his concern was if somebody flies into one of them, to which Mr. Rudy responded, it is positioned such that it is pretty far from the runways, so the chances of that happening are probably like being struck by lightning. Mr. Holloway said he has a friend who has been struck by lightning, so that is not that uncommon.

Mrs. Hurley said Mr. Rudy mentioned they are reallocating some of this funding from other projects, and that they had anticipated using CARES funding. She then asked if that was because they did not get approved for use of the CARES funding for those projects, to which Mr. Rudy responded, that kind of rolls into the next item on the agenda for the automated parking lot attendant. He explained, they wanted to reallocate that money because that equipment purchase is not eligible, and they were going

to pay for that equipment by using unspent fiscal year 2021 funds. He said then they are short \$49,000, which they would be pulling out of operational expenses in their fourth year of the CARES allocation.

Mr. Rudy said, just for Council's information, the new round of American Rescue Plan grant funding was executed yesterday in the amount of \$1.34 million, which will more than cover some of these expenses.

Mr. Cannon said Mr. Rudy has done very good work as far as keeping up with all of this. He said, between the FAA and the money coming in, it is no easy task.

Mrs. Hurley said the next step is to have a public hearing since this is a capital project, and they can have that on January 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. [The public hearing was postponed to January 18 at 10:00 a.m.]

There was no further discussion.



John T. Cannon, President, At-Large



Ernest F. Davis, Vice President, District 1



William R. McCain, At-Large

Nicole Acle, District 2



Larry Dodd, District 3



Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator