

City continues to progress on fuel farm facility at airport

Written by April Peregoy

A bid from Garsite totaling \$70,838 to install the new Avgas fuel farm at Holyoke Municipal Airport was accepted by Holyoke City Council members at their regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Airport business, including the Garsite bid, dominated the agenda of the city council that night.

A bid from Garsite was also chosen back in August, 2008 to install the Jet A fuel farm at the airport. City Supt. Mark Brown said the Avgas tank and equipment will be nearly identical to the Jet A, and will be connected to the existing credit card machine at the airport.

However, approval of the bid is contingent upon the final acceptance of the state aviation system grant. For 2009, the Colorado Aeronautical Board and the Division of Aeronautics have awarded the City of Holyoke a \$100,000 grant for the fuel farm facilities at the airport, with \$25,000 to be matched by the city.

As a formality, the council had to pass a resolution Tuesday night that formally requests assistance from the Aeronautical Board in order to receive the funds.

Other airport business included a request from Cornhusker Ag Aviation Service to rent or lease a section of land at the airport. The aerial spraying business is based out of Grant, Neb. and has customers throughout the area.

According to Brown, having a holding facility at the Holyoke airport would allow the business to expand the area it serves by giving them another site to stop and refuel.

Brown thought the business would use the land to put in a 60'x60' launch pad only. He said the business does not intend to store any planes at the Holyoke airport. For the space, Brown added the owner is willing to pay \$2,000 per year.

Council members voted to approve the request based on the \$2,000 per year offer and under the condition it is given approval by the fuel farm engineer.

In addition, the council voted to allow Brown the authority to adjust airport fuel prices at his discretion.

Damaged building
to be replaced

Rather than rebuild the city's storage garage that was heavily damaged in high winds on Nov. 6, Holyoke City Council will replace it with a new building to be located just east of the city office buildings.

The decision was made for insurance purposes. CIRSA told the city it will receive a higher bid if the building is relocated, as conditions at the site it is currently at makes it more likely the building could be damaged again. The city is now accepting bids for the construction job.

Other business

In other business, council members:

- approved an airport hangar lease with Bill Larrabee.
- tabled a discussion on whether to send a letter of support for the Colorado resolution approving an augmentation plan and accounting procedures for the Republican River Compact Compliance Pipeline. The council felt it necessary to seek advice from City Attorney Al Wall, who was absent Tuesday night, before approving the letter.

- donated \$9,000 to Phillips County Economic Development Corp.

- accepted an annual report from Holyoke Volunteer Fire Dept. It was noted by councilman Orville Tonsing the Dept. is currently short six volunteers of the usual 24 in service.

- approved a travel request for the Police Dept. to attend CIRSA's "Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Driver" training class in Brush.