

Stormwater Utility Update ...

Tenants of the Greeley-Weld County Airport over the past few weeks have received notification of the appeal filed by the Airport Authority with the City of Greeley over the proposed storm water utility fees. The City of Greeley charges this fee to all properties within the City, to help fund storm water infrastructure improvements throughout the City, as well citizen education programs, and a variety of other related projects and programs as well. It is important to note that this is a fee, charged to users of the City's storm water system, and not a tax. What the Airport Authority feels however is that when the City established the fee a few years ago, it never considered how to handle a situation where a property within the City limits was not receiving the benefits of the City's storm water system, or its services. Such is the case with the Greeley-Weld County Airport.

Each of the services that the City provides to its citizens and businesses is already provided to tenants of the airport directly by the Airport Authority. The rents and fees paid by each tenant on the airport help fund these services. Additionally, none of the stormwater discharged off the airport property enters into the City's storm water system.

The Greeley Public Works Department has done a detailed analysis of the airport, and has concluded that the airport already provides these services in a satisfactory manner, and that the City will not provide these services to the airport. Yet... they expected the airport and its tenants to pay approximately \$24,000.00 per year in stormwater utility fees.

The Airport Authority filed a formal appeal to the Greeley City Council with the intent not to get the City Council to waive these fees permanently, but rather to have them waived until such time as the City actually begins providing services of this nature to the airport and its tenants, which is likely a number of years off still. The Airport Authority feels strongly that as a part of the City of Greeley, it is necessary for the airport to support its fair share of the services it receives. However, we also feel that for the time being, it is unfair to force the tenants of the airport to pay for a service, the benefits of which they are excluded from receiving. The issue was scheduled to go before the City Council on October 18th, 2005. At the time that the subject came up on the agenda, the City staff informed the Council of some irregularities concerning the process used by the City in processing the appeal filed by the airport, which subsequently led to the postponement of any hearing or action by the Council.

Since then, the City staff has decided it is necessary for the City to consider amending the current city code concerning the storm water fee. They are proposing to change the ordinance to establish a new class of property owners. These would be properties which are required by federal or state law to maintain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit on their own, independent of the City, and which are not connected to the City stormwater system. The airport would fall into this new class of property owner. These property owners would be exempt from stormwater fees, but would be required to pay an administrative fee instead. No information on how the administrative fee would be calculated has been provided yet, so there is no way of knowing how much that would be for the airport. Airport staff have decided to take a "wait and see" approach right now, since we have been advised against submitting another appeal to the City until after this amendment to the code has been proposed. It will likely be several weeks before we know anything further on this matter, but will continue to report its status as we have additional information to report.

Please call our office during normal business hours if you would like more information.

GXY Welcomes Poudre Aviation

LNAV/RNAV Procedures Coming

The Federal Aviation Administration is moving closer towards accomplishing its goals of instituting LNAV / RNAV procedures throughout the region. At the current time, the Airport Authority is working with the FAA on the establishment of these procedures to Runways 9 and 34 at the Greeley-Weld County Airport. The current schedule calls for the Runway 34 procedures to be in place by mid 2007, with the procedures for Runway 9 sometime thereafter.

Poudre Aviation, presently located at the Fort Collins Downtown Airport, will relocate its business operations to the Greeley-Weld County Airport shortly after the first of the year. Poudre Aviation offers minor and major airframe and powerplant services, flight training from Private through ATP (including an Elite Flight Simulator), and aircraft rental services to the general public. Aircraft rental is a service which has been absent from the Greeley-Weld County Airport for several years. Poudre Aviation will offer five aircraft for rent, including two Cessna 152's, one Cessna 172, one Cessna 182, and one Piper Arrow. The company will be located inside the Aircraft Cylinders and Engines hangar at 633 Buss Ave. (the former Harris Jet Center Hangar). Local phone numbers for Poudre Aviation have not been set up yet, but they can currently be reached at (970) 218-3758, or (970) 530-0500.

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Airfield Electrical Project Wraps Up

Runway 9/27 re-opened on September 1st after a major rehabilitation of its electrical system, which has not been done in over 20 years. The runway re-opened after only four weeks of closure, rather than the original six weeks which was scheduled. Installed on the runway, was all new underground electrical cabling and lightning protection counterpoise, new runway and threshold lights, and the replacement of the outdated 4 unit Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) on Runway 9, with a new modern 2 unit PAPI. The Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL) on Runway 27 were replaced with new units, and a set of REIL's were also installed on the Runway 9 end, where none previously existed. Runway 9/27 also now has Runway Distance Remaining (RDR) signs alongside it. A high visibility segmented circle was also established around the airport's main wind cone with traffic pattern indicators.

One other major change that has occurred with this project, is the replacement of the airport's rotating beacon and tower with a new one, which is now in service, and located on the northeast portion of the airport, east of the Runway 34 displaced threshold location. The old beacon, installed in 1969, has been experiencing major mechanical problems over the past few years, and parts were no longer available to keep repairing it. Additionally, the foundation of the tower itself was cracked, and the tower was leaning, and getting worse each year. Its removal for safety reasons was therefore necessary.

As always, the airport staff appreciates everyone's patience and understanding during the airfield closures. Additionally, we can all look forward to the summer of 2006, when no extended closures of any airfield areas are currently planned.

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We want this newsletter to be of value and interest to our tenants and users. If you have an issue or idea you would like us to report on, email it to us at mpmckenna@gxy.net. Also, if you would like to share your news with others, email that to us and we'll be happy to put it in the next newsletter.
