

NEW MEXICO SPACEPORT AUTHORITY  
Special Board Meeting  
1:00 pm Thursday, February 28, 2019  
Spaceport America Offices  
901 E. University Ave, Suite 965L  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

**MEETING MINUTES**

Attendees:

- Dan Hicks
- Zach DeGregorio
- Melissa Force
- Rick Holdridge
- Laura Conniff (via phone)
- Michelle Coons (via phone)
- Nathan LaFont (via phone)

Rick Holdridge: I call this meeting to order. If everyone will please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

[recite the pledge]

Rick Holdridge: Thank you, at this point I will perform a roll call.

[performs a roll call to identify attendees]

Rick Holdridge: We have a quorum. You have the agenda. We are going to discuss the RFP for the Public Relations Contract. At this point, if anyone wants to go into a closed session to discuss this we can. Does anyone feel like we need to go into a closed session?

[no request for closed session]

Rick Holdridge: At this point we will approve the agenda to receive the recommendation from the staff and vote.

Michelle Coons: I so move.

Nathan LaFont: Second.

Rick Holdridge: All in favor.

Unison: Aye.

Rick Holdridge: I will turn the meeting over to the staff to present their recommendation.

Zach DeGregorio: We sent to the board the RFP documentation for the Public Relations Consulting contract. We are recommending to issue two separate contracts. A firm would focus on the Las Cruces market, and the other firm would focus on the Albuquerque market. Our recommendation to the board is to have a dual award to both these contractors.

Nathan LaFont: The RFP has already been issued?

Zach DeGregorio: The RFP has been issued and the scoring has already been done. The whole process is done except for the final negotiations with the bidders. But we do not anticipate any difficulty, as no bidders rejected our terms and conditions in the RFP process. These are straight forward contracts.

Michelle Coons: I wanted to compliment you for splitting this into two contracts. That was a good approach. They each bid on a full amount?

Zach DeGregorio: The amounts in the contracts are ceiling amounts. We anticipate the actual costs will be below those ceilings with the ability to ramp up for specific needs.

Rick Holdridge: Why did we pick an El Paso contractor?

Zach DeGregorio: The contractor from El Paso was the only response we received from the Las Cruces market. All the other responses were Albuquerque companies and one other one was from Arizona.

Dan Hicks: El Paso is important because it covers the borderplex area.

Zach DeGregorio: We also did reach out to local Las Cruces PR firms, but they chose not to bid.

Rick Holdridge: Having no other questions or comments. Is there a motion to accept the staff's recommendation? (Resolution 2019-001)

Michelle Coons: I so move.

Nathan LaFont: Second.

Rick Holdridge: All in favor?

Unison: Aye.

Rick Holdridge: Any other questions from the board?

[none]

Rick Holdridge: We have one person from the public who would like to comment.

Ron Fenn: I was pleased to see Dan Hicks on television saying that tourism was no longer a major component of Spaceport America. I ask Spaceport America to do the right thing for Truth or Consequences and remove yourself from our building. I have done the analysis and Spaceport America has earned \$135/month for the last 14 months. This is hardly anything to be proud of considering the fair market rent for our building should be \$19,000 / year and we have got nothing. I have made a proposal to the city manager to lease the building myself and return it to the people of Truth or Consequences. I hope my offer will be accepted and we will get the building back to the people. I hope you people will put your heads together and say it is time to move on and move out and find another space or move to Las Cruces. Now you have the Southern Road completed. I drove on the Southern Road the other day. It is a very nice road. I wish we had nice roads like that in Truth or Consequences. But I would like to see whatever you do be related to the space industry and leave tourism off the table. It is not a tourist attraction with the Virgin Galactic launches at 50,000 feet. People will not drive to see

that. People will only be able to see a pinpoint in the sky. Unless they are coming to see someone crash land. I ask for your support for my proposal to the city.

Rick Holdridge: I will ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Nathan LaFont: So moved.

Michelle Coons: Second.

Unison: Aye.

[Meeting is adjourned]

Approved

  


Date

4/4/19