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## Airport Staffing - Update

2 messages

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**Jim Tuller** <jtuller@tcfire.org>

Wed, Apr 26, 2023 at 2:26 PM

To: Penny Hill &lt;phill@traversecitymi.gov&gt;

Cc: Lauren Tribble-Laucht &lt;ltaucht@traversecitymi.gov&gt;, Kristine Bosley &lt;KBosley@traversecitymi.gov&gt;

Good Afternoon Penny,

On April 19, a walk-thru of ARFF Station 03 was held for those parties that received the RFP and were interested in providing temporary extra staffing at the Airport from June to October 2023. This would be for 12 hours/day, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

2 parties participated that day:

> Jim Hamilton. He owns the current armed security service that is working at the Airport through a contractor service agreement.

> A rep from ProTec. They are a private service that currently provides coverage at Kalamazoo County Airport.

No local fire departments participated due to (as I've been told) a lack of current staffing levels they are experiencing.

Regarding Mr. Hamilton, it is his intent to hire local off-duty firefighters, more specifically, off duty TCFD members, to fill the above time slots described above, under a contract with the Airport.

I have not spoken directly with Mr. Hamilton. I confirmed this information through a phone call to Dan Sal this afternoon.

It was heard (though not confirmed) that this would also be the business model presented by ProTec as they are also struggling with staffing challenges in Kalamazoo, let alone being able to provide 5 months of temporary staffing at Cherry Capital.

So, 2 items present themselves as having an effect on the potential plans of the 2 private providers mentioned above.

1) Logistics:

It is well known the challenges we (TCFD) are having regarding staffing. As I reported during the Staff meeting earlier this week, we are currently further challenged with 3 injuries. 1 is a person off and expected to be back in late June or early July. 1 person is off now and is not expected to return until late October or early November. 1 person will be off soon and is not expected to return for 4-6 weeks. Also, Captain Rueckert filed his official intent-to- retire paperwork today and is expected to retire on July 04.

When Marty and I met with the Airport Administration earlier this year, we declined to fill the proposed extra Airport slots due to our current staffing levels. At present, this would be a hard no. We are working every day to fill our minimum shift requirements. We have open shifts everyday.

Frankly, if I thought we had the "bench" to fill the extra slots requested, it would have been indicated so a few months ago when Marty and I initially met with the Airport Admin and there would not be an issue ahead of us this June.

I am available at any time to meet and discuss this item.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Chief T.

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**4 attachments**



**229-P Policy Secondary Employment.pdf**  
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