

As most of you know, I'm Gary Weaver, I joined the Port of Othello in 2008 as Port Commissioner. I would like to make a public statement today detailing the facts and turn of events that have transpired regarding the hanger building project at the Othello airfield.

1. After a reviewing several designs, it was agreed upon by this board that we would build a 10-unit T hanger style building. We clearly spelled out in the bid packet that it would be an all-steel pre-engineered building, the thickness of concrete, electrical and "specifically a Highfold aircraft bifold door" was to be used and that the building was to be engineered to accept that special door. Several Contractors bid our job. After looking at all the bids, we awarded the contract to Jeff Unrah, owner of Straight A Construction, to begin the construction of the hangers at the Othello airfield. Jeff Unrah as "Straight A Construction" signed the contract and agreed to build the hangers as to our specifications.
2. Since contracting with Straight A Construction, the building progress has been slow. When the building finally arrived, I noticed that the doors were not the correct style as specified in the original plans. As a matter of fact, they were not Highfold aircraft Bifold doors at all. They were a different door and different design by another company. After checking with our engineers, we were informed that these doors were considerably cheaper and did not match the standards for usage that we wanted and specified in the bid sheet.
3. I immediately requested a special meeting to be held with the board to discuss this before there was any further progress on the job site. At that meeting, it was suggested that we go look at these style doors at Yakima, WA where we could see this style. It was then suggested that and I quote "we have to keep this secret, or this will make us look really bad" unquote. I did not agree with this suggestion, and I let everyone know that I was not going to be part of any secret, coverup or try to keep this "in house". I feel this is very unfair to all the contractors who bid this job as per our specifications. I was then and still am in the opinion that this board make Straight A Construction build our T hangers the right way. The way we specified in our bid packet
4. At our last meeting, on Thursday, July 8, 2021, it was clear that I was the only person on the board that wanted this to be public information and to further make the contractor rectify it by getting the correct bifold doors. The meeting ended with much dissention which is why I am making this statement to the public and our constituents today, in an attempt to be transparent with the project through its entirety.
5. As a Port commissioner I want to apologize to Contractors who bid this job. The seams our rules didn't apply to all. And for that I sincerely apologize.
6. In summary, I feel Straight A Construction needs to be held accountable and build the hanger per the specifications agreed upon by this board. And to provide the citizens of Othello the best possible building that will be functionally sound and used for years to come. And again, to be fair to all the contractors who bid this job.

7. Going forward, I hope that this board can come together as one. I believe bigger and better things are to come to help Othello and Adams County grow and we (this board) must work as one.

I would also like to thank Chris Fikes, our Port Director, for his honest and calm leadership through all of this. I appreciate him very much.