

THIS JUST IN

by Metro Spirit Writers

Augusta Regional Airport hoping for new director

by Stacey Eidson, November 16th 06:16pm

Augusta Regional Airport has officially selected a new director.

Rev. Karlton Howard, chairman of the Augusta Aviation Commission, announced last week that the board has unanimously selected Gary LeTellier, the executive director of Coos County Airport Authority in Coos Bay, Oregon.

LeTellier was hired by the city of North Bend, Ore. to manage the airport in 1997. The airport is comprised of about 1,000 acres and has three runways with one reaching 5,400 feet, another at 4,600 feet and a small runway at 1,800 feet.

Prior to his position in Coos County, LeTellier was executive director of the Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, Fla., according to the Oregon Airport Management Association. In Fort Myers, LeTellier was responsible for the original construction of the new airport in 1983. He came to Fort Myers after being the assistant director at the Daytona Beach Regional Airport.

The terms of LeTellier's contract has been finalized, but it must go downtown and receive final approve by the Augusta Commission on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

LeTellier will be the third person selected to take on the position at the airport this year. Last month, the aviation commission selected John Faulkner, currently the assistant aviation director of planning and development at Colorado Springs Airport, for the top slot at the airport.

But when negotiations fell through, Howard said the board decided to pursue LeTellier as Augusta's new airport director.

Earlier this year, the airport board thought it had found a new airport director in Jerry Sealy, an aviation consultant from Florida.

However, Howard announced in March that Sealy had pulled his name out of contention. The airport board decided to hire an executive search firm from Jacksonville, Fla. to aid in its hunt for a new director.

The commission narrowed its search down to four candidates from the 47 candidates that applied for the job, according to Aviation Commissioner Lowell Dorn, chairman of the new selection committee.

The new airport director will replace the former director, Buster Boshears, who resigned last year. Boshears recently announced he will be retiring as airport manager at Daniel Field in January.