

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on July 29th, 2014

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on July 29th, 2014 in its offices at the Macon County Airport. All members are present with the exception of Member Schmitt who is excused from this meeting. Also present are Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer, W.K. Dickson; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Neil Hoppe, airport FBO; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Travis Tallent, of the Macon County News; and Bobby Coggins, of Macon Media.com. Chair Gregory welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD MAY 27TH, 2014 AND JUNE 24TH, 2014: After a discussion Member Jenkins makes a motion to approve the minutes as referenced and mailed. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

Member Gregory presents a card from Mrs. Harold Corbin, which expresses appreciation for the support of the MCAA through the difficult time of Member Corbin's illness and passing.

Chair Gregory welcomes Richard Rhodes as the newest officially sworn MCAA member. He thanks Member Rhodes for his willingness to serve the community by serving on the MCAA, and comments that Mr. Rhodes knowledge as a businessman and pilot will be very helpful to the MCAA. Member Rhodes, in turn, states that he appreciates the opportunity to serve on the MCAA, and that he thinks that the Macon County airport is a great asset for Macon County.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR: After a discussion, Member Jenkins makes a nomination for Member Gary Schmitt as Vice President of the MCAA. Member Haithcock continues the process by stating that nominations should cease. Member Rhodes seconds the nomination for appointment and Member Schmitt is appointed as Vice-Chair of the MCAA by acclamation.

ENGINEERING REPORT: UPDATE OF RUNWAY WIDENING PROJECT: Jimmy Luther, project engineer, presents a report regarding the runway widening project. He states that the 12 and ½ feet extension on either side of the runway has met all testing requirements, and the contractors are currently installing the edge drain. He also states that the electrical engineer will be on site tonight. He reports that the airport closing is scheduled for Monday, August 1, 2014, and that the surface treatment and asphalt will be applied at that time. He states that the temporary marking of the runway will be also be done during the anticipated seven (7) day shutdown of the airport. Mr. Luther also reports that the contractor is cleaning the runway each night and morning in order to keep it clear of any construction debris. Mr. Luther states that adverse weather and the resulting moisture has caused some delays but the project is still on track. The widening project has resulted in a runway that is now one hundred (100') feet wide. FBO Hoppe states that the construction staff has addressed any potential issues nicely. He also states that he will issue a NODAM to address the closure, and Mr. Luther states that the W.K. Dickson construction observer will let Mr. Hoppe know the exact time of the closure. Mr. Luther is asked about the "dip" in the runway, and he states that they will correct as much of it as possible. He states that there is no grade correction needed. Mr. Luther states that the required DBE shortfall form in connection to the apron rehabilitation project has been sent to the contractor, and should be returned shortly.

APPROVAL OF TAXIWAY DESIGN CONTRACT: Mr. Luther presents the contract for the design of the taxiway rehabilitation project for signature. He states that the “hold harmless” language has been added as requested by the MCAA and legal counsel. Chair Gregory emphasizes to Mr. Luther that funding is not secured as of yet for this project, because Macon County Commissioners have not yet approved the 10% required match. Mr. Luther states that he understands this component of the process, and his company is agreeable in moving forward with the design under these circumstances, and he acknowledges that there is a risk of non-payment involved for the design of the taxiway rehabilitation. Legal Counsel, Joe Collins, states that he finds this process “troubling” in that the MCAA is entering into a contract for which the funding is not assured. Chair Gregory states that this will help expedite the design work, that the chances of the match being approved by the Commissioners is good, that the MCAA plans to ask for the match in November, 2014 and that the MCAA is not taking the risk, that W.K. Dickson is. Member Rhodes states that he agrees with Chair Gregory on these points, and Member Jenkins states that he has no problem with entering into this agreement as long as the “hold harmless” language is adequate, specifically stating that if the grant funding is not issued, or if the match is not agreed upon by the Commissioners, then there will be no charge to the MCAA for any design work done by W.K. Dickson. Member Jenkins continues by making a motion that the MCAA accept the proposal as submitted by W.K. Dickson (Task Order #5-Taxiway Rehabilitation (Design & Bidding Phase) dated August 14, 2014), subject to the review of counsel for assurance that the “hold harmless” language contained in the Task Order is adequate. Member Rhodes seconds this motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The agreement is forwarded to Mr. Collins for review.

UPDATE ON GROUNDS MAINTENANCE: Member Haithcock reports that the Macon County staff is still mowing the grounds, and that both he and his daughter have been mowing as well. He also states that “round-up” was put up the middle area. He reports that he thinks the county is getting ready to put “round-up” the around the fence. He states that funding is short in the amount of \$187.00, but the needed funds came out of the fund balance. He also states that the electrical bill amount has gone down because the beacon and obstruction lights are not currently working. Member Haithcock reports that the air conditioning has been repaired by the county staff. Member Haithcock continues by stating that more keys are needed for the airport gates, and that there is an issue with the person cutting hay on the grounds of utilizing the runway for access to the area. Chair Gregory states that he will make sure that the hay cutter is aware he should not be using the runway for access. Member Haithcock continues by stating that there has been a failure of the AWOS system, and that this is not an expense that is reimbursed by the Division of Aviation. The amount of the invoice is \$700.00. Mr. Luther suggests that this invoice should be reviewed by the DOA again, and that the new runway lights will be LED and that the use of those will result in a reduction in the electrical bill.

GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT APPROVAL: Mr. Collins presents the amended ground lease between the MCAA and Drake Enterprises for approval, and explains that the amended lease period will be extended to June of 2035. Mr. Collins further explains that in connection to the issue of the confusion regarding the MCAA providing paving to connect the hangar to the tarmac, that this year’s extension satisfies both parties. After further discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to accept the proposed changes and sign the amended lease. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Mr. Collins will forward the amended lease to Chair Gregory for signature.

CUTTING OF HAY CONTRACT: Chair Gregory states that Jason Brown submitted a bill to the MCAA for fertilizing the hay cutting area of the airport grounds. Mr. Brown has stated that he wants to be reimbursed by the MCAA for said fertilizer. Member Jenkins states that the MCAA is unaware of any fertilizing taking place, and that permission should have been granted through the MCAA if indeed any fertilizer was put down. Member Jenkins goes on to say that Mr. Brown did not have the authorization from the MCAA to proceed with fertilizing. After further discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to deny Mr. Brown's request for reimbursement. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Rhodes questions why the PAPI's have not been certified and commissioned for use. Mr. Luther states that once the survey is done and the certification is issued stating there are no obstructions, it will be certified. Chair Gregory asks Mr. Luther to please talk to "whomever he has to" in order to get the obstruction removal certification taken care of. Chair Gregory states that not having the certification on record may jeopardize funding, among other things. It is reported that Jimmy Capps of the FAA has stated that the runway end and banks of the creek need to be cleared as well. Member Haithcock states that Mr. Capps reported that the area cleared of obstructions should be an 800' wide trapezoid shape, so the survey should include this 800' area. Since the airport does not have a GPS approach, the FAA will utilize Google Earth to point out any obstructions, and that it would be included in the contract regarding the taxiway approach.

Chair Gregory reports that sadly, Mr. Albert Ramsey passed away yesterday. Mr. Ramsey was an adjoining property owner, who had been supportive of the Macon County airport.

Member Jenkins states that he will have a report regarding the potential advertising matter ready for the next scheduled MCAA meeting.

FBO Hoppe asks if the airport needs to be fully staffed during the week of the closure of the airport. It is agreed that the airport can operate with a skeletal staff during the seven day closure period.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Rhodes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Member Haithcock seconding the motion. The motion passes unanimously, and the meeting is adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary

