

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on March 31st, 2015

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on March 31st, 2015 in its offices at the Macon Count Airport. All members with the exception of Member Jenkins and Member Schmitt are present. Also present are: Jimmy Luther, Engineer; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Lori Hall, Macon County Finance Director; Jim Tate, Macon County Commissioner; Eric Trubicga of ETEC Electric; Neil Hoppe airport FBO; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press; and Bobby Coggins, Macon Media.com. Chair Gregory welcomes all present and calls the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 24TH, 2015: After a discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

ADOPTION OF FY 2015-2016 MCAA BUDGET: Member Haithcock presents the potential budget for FY 2015-2016. Ms. Hall, Macon County Finance Director, states that she will run the required ad in the Franklin Press. The ad will set the date of the public hearing for April 28th, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Gregory asks that Agenda Item #8, **CONSIDERATION OF LIGHTING CONTRACT** be moved and addressed as the second agenda item.

Mr. Eric Trubicga of ETEC Electric is present to address the repair of the obstruction lights which are located along the ridge tops of various mountains surrounding the airport. He states that he has experience in this field, and states that he repairs and maintains the hazard lights for Jackson County airport. He has been scouting the locations of the obstruction lights with Member Haithcock. He states that some are more easily accessible, but that some of the locations require four wheel drive transportation. He states that he will thoroughly check the lights and make sure that they are operating properly. He states that he uses traffic signal bulbs in Jackson County, but would rather use LED lights in Macon County if possible. Ms. Hall is available and suggests that the MCAA obtain a quote from Mr. Trubicga for repairing the five easiest accessible lights. Mr. Collins asks if he will be working on an hourly basis and states that a contract should be developed with a "not to exceed" amount included in the contract. If the repairs are determined to be under \$30,000.00, then no bids are required. Mr. Trubicga will prepare a proposal for potential costs of the repair and maintenance. He states that he is

insured and provides workmen's compensation insurance for his employees. He will e-mail the proposal to Chair Gregory upon completion. Chair Gregory expresses appreciation to Mr. Trubicga and to Member Haithcock for the information regarding the lights. Mr. Hoppe states that Mr. Trubicga has the reputation of being "good as gold" and reliable.

Ms. McDowell states that the grant that is in process from the Division of Aviation and which will include funding for the obstruction lighting, as well as the rotating beacon and AWOS system is being processed by the DOA and should be available shortly.

ENGINEERING REPORT: Mr. Luther reports that he has had conversations with the FAA, and he presents a letter from the FAA regarding existing obstructions around the airport. He states that there are trees, and some construction included in the Joel Johnson survey as being in the obstruction path. He states that there are a couple of approaches to this issue available. He states that baffles can be added which will limit the angle and reduce the obstruction area by around two (2) miles (optimum clearing system is four (4) miles, but this option is allowable in reducing obstructions within 2.5 miles). He states that there is the option to mitigate some obstructions and get the PAPI's certified within two (2) miles. He states that this is a narrower window, but there is a little more safety cushion. Mr. Luther states that he thinks this is a viable option. Mr. Luther continues by reporting that there are two (2) options available: 1. Relocate PAPI's, put baffles on them and re-set the angles which reduce the area. Obstructions located outside of the baffle limit will not have to be cleared; and 2. Relocate/re-aim PAPI's at either end of the runway. This could morph into an obstruction clearing project at the airport. Mr. Luther continues by stating that the proposed 4 degree angles will not affect the WAAS in the future. He states that this option should reduce costs and eliminate some of the obstructions. Member Rhodes, who is a pilot, thinks this option is best. After further discussion, it is determined that the best option is to relocate the PAPI's on both ends of the runway. Member Rhodes states that two (2) miles would probably be effective. Mr. Luther states that this information needs to be formulated into a grant request. At this point, no funding is available so this is an information gathering discussion only.

In connection to the AWOS system, Mr. Luther states that Project Manager Yap has been provided a benefit cost analysis. Currently maintenance is being performed on the existing AWOS system, and it should be operating soon. The DOA pays for this maintenance. The new AWOS system will be installed as soon as the funding is available.

UPDATE ON OBSTRUCTION LIGHTING: See Agenda Item Two

REPORT ON NC AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION: Member Haithcock attended the convention as a representative of the MCAA. He states that general aviation is in good shape in North Carolina and that any prime airport will be a great asset in the future. Mr. Luther states

that there is 770 million dollars in taxes forwarded to state government, but that airports will only receive 20.4 million in funding. He states that hopefully funding will increase in the near future. Member Haithcock states that overall this was a good conference and he also states that it is important to keep local interest focused on the airports.

CONSIDERATION OF LIGHTING CONTRACT-See Agenda Item Two

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF A WALK BEHIND BRUSH CUTTER: Chair Gregory presents information regarding purchasing a walk behind brush cutter to be utilized to maintain the airport grounds, creek banks and fence line. It is determined that the funding necessary to purchase this machinery can be taken from the fund balance budget. It is also determined that if the cost for the cutter is over \$5,000.00, then bids will need to be obtained. Chair Gregory states that the cost of the cutter he has been researching is \$4,000.00, and that it will be sufficient for the job. He states that this is a commercial cutter with a warranty. After further discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to purchase the walk behind brush cutter with funding taken from the fund balance as discussed. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Chair Gregory continues by stating that the MCAA would like to start a discussion regarding hiring a part time employee to assist in maintaining the airport grounds. Commissioner Tate recommends that Miles talk to County Manager, Derek Roland, regarding this issue. He continues by stating that Mr. Roland is currently working on the budget, and so this would be a good time to approach him.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chair Gregory suggests that an open house at the airport be scheduled for late summer or early fall, in order to familiarize the public with the airport grounds and operations. Commissioner Tate states that he thinks this is a good idea and makes some suggestions for potential invitees. Chair Gregory states that a date for the open house will be set at the next meeting. After a discussion, Member Haithcock makes a motion to approve the 2015 audit as presented with a cost of \$5,525.00. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

At this time, Member Haithcock makes a motion for the MCAA to move into executive session for a discussion as determined by N.C.G.S. §143-318-11(A)(5)(ii). Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

After a discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to return to open session. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. No action is taken.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Rhodes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Haithcock seconds the motion which passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary