

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 28th, 2009

The Macon County Airport Authority met on April 28th, 2009, in its office at 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, North Carolina. Member Corbin is absent. All other members are present. Also present are Bobby Koppers, County Commissioner; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Norm Roberts and Mark Bryson, interested citizens; Colin McCandless, The Franklin Press; Tony Wheeler, Macon County News and Teresa McDowell, Clerk. Due to a medical emergency, Chair Gregory calls the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

MINUTES: Upon a motion by Member Jenkins, seconded by Member Schmitt, the minutes of the meeting held March 31st, 2009 are unanimously approved.

AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Legal Counsel Joe Collins addressed the citizens present, and informs them that the public comment session rules are that they are welcome to make public comments, but that it is not a question and answer session.

Lucy Meadows Smarr: Ms. Smarr asks the Airport Authority to respond to the following questions: 1. What kind of permanent jobs will be directly created by the construction of the runway extension; 2. Would the Airport Authority consider moving the regular meeting times to after 5:00; and 3. What procedure will be utilized to address the petition that was submitted at last meeting. Chair Gregory asked her to submit the questions to the Airport Authority in writing, and upon receipt, they will be addressed.

Debby Boots: Ms. Boots states that she has been made aware of a letter that was sent by the Fish and Wildlife agency to the Airport Authority stating that there has been no contact between these two agencies since March of 2002, and she wants to know the circumstances. Again, she was asked to submit any questions she has in writing to the Authority and they will be addressed. Eric Rysdon, the engineer, is unable to attend the meeting today and he is the most knowledgeable regarding questions involving the Fish and Wildlife agency.

Dolly Reed: Ms. Reed states that the data recovery has been compromised and asks if the remaining impaction, stripping and mapping will take into consideration that there should be no disturbance of human burials. She also has concerns regarding possible large aircraft landings at the airport.

Pat Stoker: Ms. Stoker states that she is excited to see the expansion taking place at the Macon County Airport. She thinks it is a positive thing, and that more tourism type businesses will benefit from the runway extension.

Norm Roberts: Mr. Roberts states that he has enjoyed a long history with the Macon County Airport, at one time being a member of the Airport Commission. He states that before retirement, he was a naval aviator, American Airlines pilot and an air traffic controller. He commends the airport on their strides toward installing an instrument approach procedure because Macon County Airport is a very difficult airport at which to land, because of the mountainous terrain. He explains that an IFR flight plan is filed with the Atlanta airport, and that particular pilot is assigned airspace. He can then be cleared for approach if he drops to 3600 feet and can see the airport runway. If he cannot establish sight, he must turn around and ascend back to 7000 feet, at which point the traffic controller in Atlanta will assign him an alternate route. This type of instrument approach procedure will help increase traffic to the Macon County Airport by five (5%) to ten (10%) percent. Mr. Roberts states that while on the Airport Commission, he worked very hard to get an instrument approach installed, and is glad to see the strides that the airport has made with utilizing this type approach.

J.B. Pader: Mr. Pader asks Mr. Roberts about the IFR flight rules as compared

to the VFR rules. Mr. Roberts states that the IFR flight plan has precedence over the VFR plan, and although the air traffic controller in Atlanta is not controlling all traffic, they will be controlling planes on the IFR system.

AGENDA ITEM #4: ENGINEERING REPORT: Mr. Rysdon, AA engineer, was unable to attend the meeting, so the engineering report was tabled until the next regularly scheduled Airport Authority meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5: ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chair Gregory opens the floor for officers' nominations. Member Jenkins makes a motion that Miles Gregory be appointed for another term as Chairman of the Airport Authority. Member Haithcock seconds the nomination. No more nominations are offered, and no further discussion is necessary. Chair Gregory is unanimously voted in for another term as Chairman of the Airport Authority. Member Jenkins also makes a motion to nominate Harold Corbin as Vice-Chair for another term. Member Haithcock seconds the motion, and with no other nominations offered, and no further discussion, Member Corbin is unanimously voted in for another term as Vice Chairman of the Airport Authority.

Member Schmitt makes a motion that Pete Haithcock be appointed for another term as Secretary-Treasurer. Member Jenkins seconds the motion, and with no other nominations offered and no further discussion, Member Haithcock is unanimously reappointed for another term as Secretary-Treasurer of the Airport Authority.

AGENDA ITEM #6: CONTRACT FOR TREE REMOVAL: Member Haithcock states that he has been given a quote of \$5,000.00 to do the touch up on the creek banks, take out the cherry trees, and other trash brush. He states that the authority needs to obtain approval from the engineers, as well as the Army Corp. of Engineers. He also states that there is about \$3,000.00 in the budget to do this project. After this discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to move ahead with this project, subject to approval by the Army Corp of Engineers, and subject to any required permits. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM #7: LANDSCAPE TOUCH-UP: After a discussion, Member Haithcock makes a motion to spend up to and including \$1200.00 to touch-up the existing landscape in front of the terminal building. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM #8: BUDGET APPROVAL: Member Haithcock submits a budget for FY 2009-2010 based on the same figures as FY 2008-2009. Commissioner Koppers recommends that the authority start thinking about from which budget item a 7% cut can be taken. He states that this is "to be on the safe side." Last year the Airport Authority budget amount was \$46,000.00. After further discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to approve the budget as submitted. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

AGENDA ITEM #9: OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Gregory states that an airport fence post was knocked down during a car accident. Member Haithcock is to research the insurance issues regarding this type accident.

All authority members complete and submit the required Martin Starnes audit letters. Clerk McDowell will mail the letters to the proper location. In connection with the obstruction lighting, all lights have been fixed and all are currently working.

AGENDA ITEM #10: EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS: Upon motion by Member Jenkins, seconded by Member Schmitt and upon unanimous approval, the Authority convenes to executive session at 5:01 p.m. After a discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to return to open session at 5:25 p.m. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. No action was taken during executive session.

There being no further business Member Jenkins makes a motion to adjourn.
Member Schmitt seconds the motion and the meeting is adjourned at 5:30 p.m.
by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary