

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

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on April 29th, 2014 in its office at 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, North Carolina. All members with the exception of Member Corbin are present. Also present are Jim Tate, County Commissioner; Eric Rysdon, Project Engineer; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Peggy Milton and Neil Hoppe, airport FBO; Teresa McDowell, Clerk and Travis Tallent, Macon County News. Chair Gregory welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD March 25th, 2014: After a discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Chair Gregory seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

ENGINEERING REPORT: Eric Rysdon

Mr. Rysdon reports that he attended the 35th Annual NCAA Conference on April 23-25 at the Omni Grove Inn & Spa, Asheville, NC. He states that there was good turnout and that the NC Governor attended. He also states that the "points system" for projects will start around the end of May, 2014.

In connection to the Runway Widening project, Mr. Rysdon reports that the equipment is on site, and that the contractors have started but have not made as much progress as originally planned because of the weather. Chair Gregory questions the equipment entrance to the job site, and Mr. Rysdon explains that the gate on the "left end" will be utilized for entry, and that the contractor is not allowed to run loaded trucks on the runway, and that the runway will be policed and any material on the runway will be cleaned up daily. Mr. Rysdon also reports that the wetlands have been flagged. Mr. Rysdon states that he is working with DOA Project Manager, Basil Yap, to provide needed information to get the runway widening project grant finalized.

Mr. Rysdon reports that he has located previously developed documentation on the lighting issue which can be utilized as a starting point for the obstruction lighting replacement/repair project. He also has located a map of the location areas of the obstruction lights. Chair Gregory requests that Mr. Rysdon obtain written documentation from Mr. Yap outlining the plans to correct the lighting situation. He states that this project is very important and is the number one priority outside of the runway widening project.

Chair Gregory suggests to Mr. Rysdon, that he continue to keep the single point fueling needs on the project manager's "radar".

Mr. Rysdon reports to the MCAA that the concrete tie-in to the recently constructed Drake hangar will need to be constructed by Drake Enterprises at their expense. He explains that the building was not in place when the surrounding apron was done, therefore a tie-in would have been impossible to do at that point.

At this point, Member Haithcock presents a report regarding the above referenced conference, which he attended with Mr. Rysdon. He states that safety issues are the number one priority per Bobby Walston, N.C. Director of the N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation. He also states that Macon County Airport's infrastructure already meets standards, which will hopefully help when the DOA are considering the funding awards.

Mr. Rysdon addresses a letter that has been received regarding the potential location for a monopole cell tower, and states the proposed site is not allowable. He states that the height of the proposed tower puts the jet traffic which uses the GPS approach in jeopardy. Also, the proposed location will be an issue in connection to the WAAS approach, which Mr. Rysdon is currently working to obtain for the Macon County Airport. After further discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to authorize Legal Counsel, Joe Collins to develop a letter of opposition on behalf of the Macon County Airport Authority to the potential construction of the referenced cell tower at the proposed Riverbend site. He continues the motion by directing that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the County Commissioners. Member Jenkins seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

CONSIDERATION OF HAY CUTTING CONTRACT:

Chairman Gregory states that he has been approached by a farmer who wants to cut a portion of the airport grounds for hay. Chair Gregory continues by stating that the farmer has guaranteed verbally and is willing to do so in writing, that he will remove any hay bales in a timely manner. After further discussion, Member Jenkins makes a motion to authorize Chair Gregory to negotiate with the farmer in order for him to be able to cut the hay. Member Jenkins continues by saying that this will help keep the airport grounds clean. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Member Haithcock suggests that the MCAA develop instructions for use and prepare an agreement in writing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Jenkins reports that Tony Angel is formulating an advertising plan with Evelyn Owens. He will bring information back for further consideration in a couple of months.

FBO Hoppe reports that the roof is leaking again.

Chair Gregory states that the front area needs mowing, and that the weeds are growing up along the south fence-line. He continues by stating that this issue needs to be remedied as soon as possible.

Member Haithcock states that the culverts have been removed in a certain area, so the mower cannot cross over into that area. Chair Gregory states that he will contact Steve Ledford regarding these issues, and that possibly the NPE funding can be used for maintaining the airport grounds.

There being no further business, Member Jenkins makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock