

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on August 27th, 2013

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting in its office at 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, North Carolina. All members are present. Also present are Eric Rysdon, project engineer; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Neil Hoppe and Peggy Milton, airport FBO; Jack Horton, Macon County Manager; Steve Ledford, Macon County Maintenance Supervisor; and Travis Tallent, Macon County News. Chair Gregory welcomes all present, and calls the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD AUGUST 27TH, 2013: After a discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded for the August 27th, 2013 regularly scheduled meeting. Member Corbin seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

ENGINEERING REPORT: Mr. Rysdon reports that he has met with Chuck Durant of NHM, and that they have reviewed the punch list in order to finish out the apron rehabilitation project. He states that there are only a few items that need to be completed. In connection to the runway widening project, Mr. Rysdon states that all bids submitted for this project have been forwarded to the Division of Aviation, but that he has not had a response as of yet. The bid sheet is attached and made a part of these minutes. Member Haithcock attended the N.C. Division of Aviation conference in Raleigh and states that changes in the funding system will be forthcoming effective 2015. These changes include a seven (7) year plan for funding; the addition of input from a local district engineer, the development of a Rural Planning Organization (RPO) which will provide input into grant awards, and the opening up of Economic Development funding for airport improvement grants. He continues by stating that there will be a minimum of 18.5 million dollars in grants funds allotted for airport grants. The grant award decision will be determined by the Division of Aviation (50%); the District Engineer (25%), and the RPO (25%). Member Haithcock emphasizes that funding will have to be prioritized because airports will be competing for grants. Mr. Rysdon states that this new process should be of benefit to the airports. One of the aspects that will be difficult is the need to secure local match funding three (3) to four (4) years in advance of a project. Thirty-four million funding dollars will be awarded annually per division. Three (3) tiers of consideration will include: 1. State wide mobility; 2. Regional impacts and 3. Division needs. This new process should engage more decision making at the local level with safety related projects being assigned more points, and projects being based on a point system. All airports will need to have the 2015 projects identified and submitted to the Division of Aviation by November 1st, 2013. Chair Gregory thanks Member Haithcock for representing the MCAA at this conference.

LANDSCAPE REPORT: Chair Gregory thanks Mr. Ledford for his staff's assistance in keeping the airport grounds mowed.

HAZARD LIGHTS REPAIR REPORT: Mr. Ledford is present to give a report about the hazard lights. He states that the hazard lights are not working and that the beacon light is inoperative. Mr. Ledford's recommendation is to purchase a refurbished beacon light at the cost of approximately \$17,750.00. He states that the gears on the existing light are stripped and cannot be repaired. He also states that the hazard lights, which are located on mountain tops around the airport are difficult for his staff to access. County Manager Jack Horton states that he will have the radio repair staff check these lights and report back to the MCAA. He also states that a planned maintenance program needs to be in place. He continues by stating he will contact the staff and ask them to contact Chair Gregory. He also reports that he will make these repairs a priority for the staff. There is a discussion involving using a portion of the upcoming Vision 100 (2013-2014) grant for the beacon repair.

OTHER BUSINESS:

FBO Hoppe states that everything is fine, there has been good jet traffic through the airport this weekend and that the airport has had a good summer.

Legal Counsel states that he is not sure if the MCAA needs to obtain tax ID # for sales tax reimbursement purposes. After further discussion, Chair Gregory asks the clerk to proceed with obtaining a number.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pete Haithcock, Secretary