

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes for the Regular Meeting Held on September 29, 2015

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on September 29, 2015. All members with the exception of Member Jenkins are present. Also present are: Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Lori Hall, Macon County Finance Director; Jimmy Luther, W.K. Dickson; Teresa McDowell, MCAA Clerk; Neil Hoppe and Peggy Milton, airport FBO; Eric Trubicga, ETEC Electrical; Dawn and Dale McGiboney; Rick Bowers; Gary Sorenson; and Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press. Chair Gregory welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 25TH, 2015: After a discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Gary Sorenson takes this opportunity to introduce himself, and states that he is interested in aeronautics and that he lives in the neighborhood.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SPONSORING OF A HOT AIR BALLOON EVENT: Dawn and Dale McGiboney and Rick Bowers are present to ask that the MCAA consider sponsoring a hot air balloon event. Ms. McGiboney states that she has witnessed this type of event and that the area, with the hot air balloons flying, was beautiful. She continues by stating that this would be a good economic tool for the area, in that it would bring spectators into the area, and that these spectators would spend dollars in the Franklin area, and possibly end up residing here. She continues by stating that she has spoken with Commissioner Tate and Commissioner Beale, and that they both are very interested in this proposal. Ms. McGiboney presents a letter of support from Mrs. Lupoli, the partner of local property owner/developer. She then continues by stating that Mr. Bowers flew his hot air balloon in Franklin on the weekend and that several people pulled over to watch, finding the hot air balloon very interesting. Both Mr. and Ms. McGiboney continue by stating that any event could be planned to be a small event initially, with the balloons as the centerpiece, and then expand by including vendors, food trucks etc. The discussion continues with Chair Gregory and Member Rhodes questioning whether this event would actually be held at the airport, with Ms. McGiboney stating, that although the balloons could land in other areas, the airport would be the best area for staging. The MCAA expresses concerns regarding potential interference with the day-to-day operations of the airport, especially in regard to fueling the aircraft that fly in. Ms. McGiboney continues by stating that this event could be staged as more of an aviation event, rather than a hot air balloon only event, and continues by stating that other citizens she has talked to are excited about this being planned including the Bascom staff in Highlands, Terry Potts, a realtor in Highlands, and the Laurel magazine staff. Chair Gregory states that the concept sounds great but that details in connection with cost, potential profit, and safety would need to be addressed before any decision is made. Ms. McGiboney continues by stating that she would like for this type event to be planned for early spring and late summer in order to bookend the seasons and that these type events are traditionally three (3) days in duration. There is further discussion about including this in the open house event that was successfully held this year, and may be planned as an annual event. After further discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to consider the concept of offering this type event, and to do further research on this matter. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Chair Gregory thanks Mr. and Mrs. McGiboney and Mr. Bowers for the presentation and their interest in the area.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SPONSORING OF THE ADVERTISING KIOSK: Chair Gregory states that this item will be tabled until Member Jenkins can be present and update the MCAA on the status of this matter.

CONSIDERATION OF ROAD REPAIR IN CONNECT TO INSTALLING THE BEACON LIGHT: Member Haithcock states that there is a small area of an asphalt road that was damaged during the installation of the beacon light, and which needs to be repaired. He continues by stating that the repair should not take more than five (5) gallons of asphalt. After further discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to repair the damaged road, with Member Schmitt seconding the motion. The motion passes by unanimous consent. Chair Gregory states that this should be done as soon as possible, and Member Haithcock states that he will take care of as soon as the weather permits.

ENGINEERING REPORT: AWOS/GRANTS: Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer, reports that the rotating beacon is now installed. FBO Hoppe reports that the light does not come on under “dim situations”, but only during full darkness. Mr. Luther will research this issue and report back to the MCAA. Mr. Luther also reports that the AWOS is now installed, and then continues by stating that the three (3) grants are now in place, based on the Commissioners approval of the ten (10%) percent match for each of these. These grants include funding for the apron rehabilitation project and for two (2) NPE grants (2014 and 2015). These two (2) grants are project unspecified at this time. Member Rhodes asks Mr. Luther about the potential repair of the cracks in the asphalt along some of the joints, and states that these cracks should not be appearing in the asphalt, which is less than a year old. He continues by stating that the performance bond period for the contractor will be up in October of 2015, and that at that point the contractor can no longer be held responsible for repairs. Member Rhodes states that this issue should be addressed prior to this time. Mr. Luther states that the acceptance criteria as determined in the engineer specifications have been met by the contractor (Reeves), and the cracks in the asphalt are not the responsibility of the contractor to repair. Mr. Luther continues by stating that the runway widening project was specified as an “overlay” of the existing asphalt, that the funding for this project did not include asphalt removal, and that there has been a continuous issue with moisture in the area of the cracks. Mr. Luther continues by stating that, unfortunately, the area cannot be “de-watered”. Member Rhodes disagrees with this assessment, stating that “we bought a new runway”, and it should not be cracking within a year of installation. Mr. Luther continues by stating that, unfortunately, there is not an FAA penalty provided for poor joint density and poor joint performance, and he continues by stating that the scope of this project was set up to address the surface and not to go into the stone base of the runway. He continues by stating that the pavement was in poor shape, and that if more funding had been provided, the under pavement issue could have been addressed. He states that he is not happy that the cracks have appeared, but that the contractor was within his specs during the project. Member Rhodes again expresses his disagreement with Mr. Luther’s assessment, and states that a repair of the cracks should be done by the contractor before the performance bond date is up. Chair Gregory states that the MCAA and Mr. Luther will be keeping a “close eye” on this issue to make sure that the cracks do not become worse. FBO Hoppe states that potentially these cracks could cause damage to aircraft. Mr.

Luther states that based on the core studies that were done when construction was taking place, this should not become an issue.

OBSTRUCTION LIGHTING REPORT/MAINTENANCE REPORT: Chair Gregory compliments Member Haithcock and Eric Trubicga of E.T.E.C. Electrical on the repair of three (3) of the obstruction lights, and the research done in connection to locating and repairing the remaining five (5). Some of the lights do not have power to them, however the one located at Trimont Lakes does and Mr. Trubicga will do the repairs on that one next. Currently the lights located at Paul Swafford Rd., May Apple Rd. and Tall Timber are repaired and are working correctly. Mr. Trubicga also reports to the MCAA that the light located on Lyle Downs does not have power to it. He continues by stating that Duke Power can be contacted and asked to do maintenance on the line. He reports that the light located on Fox Lane has been totally removed by an adjacent property owner, who has stated that he will not allow a right of way for a power line to the light. Mr. Trubicga states that an easement may be acquired by another property owner. Member Haithcock and Mr. Trubicga continue by stating that they are researching the potential costs of installing LED lights, and the repairs to the existing lights will continue.

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL DISCUSSION: EAST END OF RUNWAY: Chair Gregory reports that an obstruction which had been causing some pilots concern has been removed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Rhodes initiates a discussion regarding installing "real time" cameras at the airport which would allow pilots with internet access to check weather conditions at the airport in real time. He continues by stating that these cameras would also assist with security. Chair Gregory asks that this matter be researched and a report provided to the MCAA at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Ms. Hall states that two quotes are needed for this project, and that she will check the amount of discretionary funds that is available in the MCAA budget.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Schmitt makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Member Haithcock seconding the motion. The motion passes by unanimous consent and the meeting is adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary-Treasurer MCAA