

**Macon County Airport Authority**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on January 26, 2010**

The Macon County Airport Authority meets on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in its office at 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, North Carolina. All members are present. Also present are Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Eric Rysdon, W.K. Dickson; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Neil Hoppe and Peggy Milton, airport FBO; Bobby Kupperts, County Commissioner; David Tell, South by Southwest; and Colin McCandless, The Franklin Press. There are several members of the public present. The members who have asked to speak during the public comment session are listed below. Chair Gregory welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**MINUTES:** Upon a motion by Member Jenkins, seconded by Member Corbin, the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 24, 2009 are unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:**

**Olga Pader:** Ms. Pader reminds the MCAA that the questions she has submitted in the past have not been addressed. She also states that she must drive past the airport four (4) times per day and she feels that the disturbance in connection with the runway extension project is a desecration and abomination. She also states that she feels the runway extension is only the beginning, and that there are plans for further development around the airport in the future. She says that the MCAA may not be aware of such plans. She also states that the MCAA has the duty to respond to the questions she submitted to them eight (8) months ago.

**Dolly Reed:** Ms. Reed states that she has met with Chief Hicks. She says that the past statement made by Member Corbin including the remark that “everything is in agreement with the Cherokees” is untrue. She states that not all Cherokees appreciate what the MCAA is currently doing and what has been done. She said that the graves in the extension area are those of her ancestors and she feels the process is a shame and disgrace. She states that the MCAA would not treat their families like that.

**Rosemary Rohanic:** Ms. Rohanic states that she is a teacher and that her knowledge comes from reading “things” in the newspaper. She also states that she is now aware of the significant archeological discovery, with some discoveries predating Christ by 2000 years. She states that this process seems to be guided only by a desire for money. She states that this site is a national treasure and is a potential economic stimulus to the county, and asks why this site cannot be marketed as that.

**Lucy Smarr:** Ms. Smarr states that she is against the extension, and states that the area on 441 South is a better location for an airport. She states that she is part Indian and feels that the find at the extension site is a major find and could be more of an economic benefit to the county if left alone. She states that people from all over the world would

visit this site. She states that if this is being done only for the money, “is another dollar going to make a difference.”

**Jim Sottile (Smoky Mountain Flying Club):** Mr. Sottile states that he is a retired NYPD detective, has been President of a major corporation, and has worked closely with corporations of all sizes. He states that the airport runway extension will not result in a busier airport. He also addresses a letter sent to the Macon County News which stated that the MCAA should be held accountable to God if a crash was to occur at the new school. In connection to this letter, Mr. Sottile states that pilots can crash anywhere or land anywhere during an emergency, and that if they experience difficulties while flying, they still have directional control, and that this can prevent the pilot from crashing into the school. He also states that these issues are contrived and that the Macon County News will print anything. He states that he has seen other articles in the Macon County News that he knows to be untrue, and he felt it was terrible that the MCAA was “condemned religiously”. He states that “you cannot walk anywhere in this area without stepping on graves.”

**Donald Thibeaut:** Mr. Thibeaut states that he is open to a public comment session, and he feels that one is necessary.

**ENGINEERING REPORT UPDATE:** Mr. Rysdon reports that in connection with the 401 comments, that they have received a letter from the Army Corp of Engineers, and that they are addressing any concerns stated in that letter with the FAA and the DOT. This report is to be submitted to the Corp. by February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Mr. Rysdon states that the comments contained in the letter to the Corp. are similar to what has been said before. He also states that in connection to the stream monitoring required by Fish and Wildlife, that he will be taking some readings today after the rainfall. He also states that he will continue to meet with the DOA, and that the current TIP plan as well as the ability for repairs on the taxiway and apron are on their priority list.

**SMOKY MTN. FLYING CLUB; REQUEST REGARDING HANGARS:** Jim Sotelli and Joe Rotota present a proposal to the MCAA from the Smoky Mountain Flying Club regarding the construction of a community hangar. He states that there are currently sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) pilots involved in this club, and that they meet at the airport. He also states that they provide man power to both Jackson and Macon County during air shows and other events. He states that the SMFC plans to purchase a light plane to be utilized by qualified members, and that they will need hangar space in which to house the plane. Mr. Sotelli states that the club would like to construct a hangar, which will contain storage space as well as a meeting room where necessary parties could meet during any

emergency. Mr. Sotelli also states that the hangar could be outfitted for emergency use. Chair Gregory states that he thinks that this is a great idea and that the MCAA would love to accommodate this request, but currently there is no property available at the airport to build this type of facility. He also states that the MCAA is in the process of attempting to get property freed up for hangar construction, for which there is a waiting list of about forty (40), and that the MCAA is currently missing out on potential revenue from hangar space rental. Chair Gregory also states that this proposal is worthy of consideration and hopefully the MCAA can accommodate this proposal in the future. Chair Gregory also thanks them for their hard work.

**OBSTRUCTION LIGHTING REPORT:** Chair Gregory reports that there are currently three (3) obstructions lights which are not working. He also states that the lights themselves are still under warranty, and that he has been in contact with King Electric regarding repairing the lights. Member Haithcock states that most of the problem relates to power surges. After further discussion, Member Haithcock makes a motion to have King Electric contacted regarding repairing the lights, and to have the necessary repairs done to get the lights in working order. Member Corbin seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Upon a motion by Member Corbin, seconded by Member Jenkins the MCAA moves into executive session at 4:45 p.m, for discussion of a contractual matter.

Upon motion of Member Jenkins, seconded by Member Corbin, and by unanimous consent, the MCAA returns to open session at 5:05 p.m. Upon return to open session, member Corbin makes a motion to employ the services of TRC in connection with monitoring Archeological Site 31MA77 during the construction phase of the runway extension project. Member Jenkins seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Member Haithcock leads a discussion regarding the possible further establishment of a joint fire department at the airport. Member Jenkins states that the MCAA should not consider any other ground breaking efforts until the runway extension is completed. Upon further discussion, Member Corbin makes a motion to table this matter until further information can be obtained, at which time the discussion will continue. Member Schmitt seconds this motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

There being no further business, Member Corbin makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Jenkins seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Pete Haithcock, Secretary