

**MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MARCH 29TH, 2016**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on March 29th, 2016. All members are present. Also present are: Jim Tate, Macon County Commissioner; Lori Hall, Macon County Finance Director; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; Peggy Milton and Neil Hoppe, airport FBO; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; Ryan Hanchett, The Franklin Press; and James Eager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: With the exception of a correction involving changing “Bobby Collins” to “Bobby Coggins” and after a discussion, Member Schmitt makes a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on February 23, 2016. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Mr. John Eager is present and expresses his appreciation that the MCAA will have the angle of the beacon light adjusted, per his request in November of 2015. Chair Gregory states that the adjustment is scheduled for tomorrow’s date.

Chair Gregory states that the agenda will be adjusted to move Item #8, Budget Approval to Item #1.

BUDGET APPROVAL-FINAL:

Member Haithcock states that the proposed FY 2016-2017 budget remains the same as presented at the last scheduled meeting. He states that this budget contains a nine thousand (\$9000.00) dollar increase over last year’s budget, and states that this is to address maintenance issues which will need to be applied during the upcoming fiscal year. Member Haithcock presents a five (5) year budget plan which addresses required improvements and upgrades not funded by the NCDOA. (Budget Plan attached) and reviews the plan with authority members. Member Haithcock states that these items are crucial. Member Haithcock continues by stating that Macon County provides a budget in the amount of forty thousand (\$40,000.00) dollars, and revenue from the FBO is seven thousand (\$7,000.00) dollars, bringing the total MCAA budget to fifty six thousand (\$56,000.00) dollars. At this point, Member Schmitt presents an estimate for a monthly maintenance fee through “Cuttin It Close Lawn Service, Inc. The estimate is in the amount of six thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars per year. Member Haithcock continues by stating that the MCAA is requesting an increase of nine thousand (\$9,000.00) dollars. Member Jenkins makes a motion to increase the budget by an additional four thousand eight hundred (\$4,800.00) dollars to be included in the building/maintenance budget line item, in order to address the maintenance issues. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. With this addition, the total budget the MCAA will be asking for is sixty thousand eight hundred (\$60,800.00) dollars. Chairman Gregory expresses appreciation to Commissioner Tate for the support provided to the MCAA in the past, and Commissioner Tate states that he is in full agreement with the increase. He continues by saying, that the members of the MCAA should be commended for the volunteer time they put in, and should not be expected to pull weeds etc.

Ms. Hall states that there will be a public advertisement of the budget, which will be taken care of by the finance office, and that a public hearing needs to be scheduled for the next regularly scheduled meeting of April 26th, 2016. She continues by stating that the commissioners will approve the budget in mid-June and that the budget will officially be adopted during the Commissioner's meeting scheduled for the last Tuesday in June.

After a discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to approve the audit as presented. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

ENGINEERING REPORT/TAXIWAY PROJECT: Project Engineer Jimmy Luther presents a report regarding the taxiway project. He states that once the pin number is provided to the DOA, the engineers can proceed with the project. There have been some delays in getting this application pinned and approved. Mr. Luther continues by stating that the bid should be put out as soon as possible, in order to get the project completed during the ideal construction period of warmer weather. He states that he has a meeting set up with Mr. Folz to update him, and he stresses that the funds for this project need to be spent, so there is no danger of them being returned to the DOA. Mr. Luther continues by stating that the bids can be held for one hundred twenty (120) days, but that they do not want to wait that long to get the bid awarded and construction started. He states that they want to get the notice to proceed issued by late June. He continues by stating that the airport will be open during the construction stage, with one-half (1/2) of the taxiway closed at a time.

KIOSK ADVERTISING REPORT: Member Jenkins states that he has a scheduled meeting with Highlands Media for tomorrow, and that sponsors will be attending. He also states that the hardware has been purchased. The next step, he reports, is to find the best location in the terminal building for the kiosk.

UPGRADE OF CAMERA SYSTEM (High Speed Internet): Member Rhodes reports that the cameras are not working up to their capability, because of the lack of necessary high speed internet service. He continues by stating that if a pilot can access the website, then they can go straight to the camera to access real time weather information. He continues by stating that he would like to put a link on the website. Member Jenkins agrees that this will be an asset to the airport and will assist him in doing this, and Member Rhodes states he will gather the needed information.

MAINTENANCE REPORT: Member Haithcock reports that Duke has not acted upon the easement issue in connection to the obstruction lights as of yet. Member Haithcock continues by stating that the funds for maintenance purposes are "tracking pretty good" and that there is still funding in the maintenance line item. Chair Gregory states that he thinks that cleaning up the fence line should be made a priority. He states that trees previously cut down are coming back, and that if it "gets ahead of them" it will more expensive.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Jenkins reports that he has met with Ms. Voight of the NCVMTA and that they discussed grant and funding issues, including the changes that have come under the Strategic Transportation Investment Act. Airport funding is now thrown into competition with highways, bike paths, rails etc. Member Jenkins continues by stating that he thinks the MCAA should invite the RPO and DOT District Engineer

along with Commissioner Tate, to tour the airport and become more familiar with it. The MCAA agrees that this is a good idea and it is tentatively scheduled for May, 2016.

Member Jenkins continues by stating that the Secretary of Commerce will be visiting the area on May 21st, and that the next RPO meeting will be held on May 17th, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Boiler Room. Tommy will send out an informational e-mail regarding this. Member Jenkins continues by stating that he is very impressed with Mr. Foltz, the recently hired DOA project manager, and states that Mr. Folz is very complimentary of the Macon County Airport.

Member Rhodes comments on the continued need for a WAAS approach, which will require some obstruction removal. He states that this will generate more pilots flying into the Macon County Airport. Mr. Luther states that the FAA has chosen Macon County as potentially receiving a WAAS system, but that obstruction issues exist which has to be corrected before the approach can be utilized. Mr. Luther also states that obstruction removal is a grant permitted project, and that the obstacles have been identified. Member Rhodes encourages the MCAA to research and move forward with installing a WAAS approach, and states that he thinks that this is a priority for the MCAA. Mr. Luther states that he will review the old data and try to determine what action is necessary to do this project.

Upon a motion by Member Jenkins, seconded by Member Haithcock, and upon unanimous approval, the Authority convenes to executive session at 5:16 for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. After a discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to return to open session at 5:25 p.m. Member Schmitt seconds the motion, which is approved by unanimous consent. Upon reconvening in open session, Chair Gregory states that no action is necessary regarding the executive session discussion.

There being no further business, member Rhodes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Schmitt seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary