

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Advisory Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Phillip Stover on March 12, 2019, in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Council Members: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Shelley Dickerson, David Bunn, Frank Donahue and Herman Dickens. Also, in attendance were Bo Carson (Interim Airport Manager), Angela Harris (County Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Jared Penny (Michael Baker Engineering), Coy Floyd (IT Director-Franklin County), Todd Huvad (Aircraft Merchants) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Council Member Taylor Bartholomew

Vice Chairman Stover presided over the meeting until Chairman Allers arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Bo Carson said before we start the meeting, he's been asked that agenda item #5 be moved to agenda item #4. Council Member Dickerson made the motion to move agenda item #5 to agenda item #4, with Council Member Bunn seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the February 12, 2019 meeting. Council Member Bunn motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Council Member Dickerson seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was public comments. Vice Chairman Stover called for comments from the public. There were no public comments at this time.

The fourth item on the agenda was update on status of Airport Manager's position by Angela Harris. Mrs. Harris said she was pleased to announce that our airport will have a new Airport Manager effective April 15th. Mr. Carson has agreed to remain in a transitional manner until we are ready to let go of the reigns and have the new manager take over. Mrs. Harris passed out John Wiatrak's resume. He was selected out of a candidate pool of 56 applicants. After a round of in person interviews, we narrowed it down and had a second round of interviews. Dr. Stover was able to join us during that second interview and we used "Zoom Video Conferencing", which we are going to use today because we have Mr. Wiatrak on stand-by in Florida. Mrs. Harris asked Dr. Stover if he had any comments. Council Member Stover said his initial impression was how did we get someone this good interested in our facility? He's already managing the fourth or fifth largest general aviation airport in the country. The reason is he's from here. Also, he trained at this airport and has stayed very interested in this airport.

His mother lives at Lake Royale, also. Mrs. Harris said she thinks this will be a great fit and he has very good people skills. He has been reading everything that he can get his hands on - not only about the airport - but Franklin County in general.

Mr. Wiatrak was brought online via video conferencing and everyone introduced themselves. Mr. Wiatrak said he turned in his offer letter today and he's looking forward to meeting everyone in about four weeks. He was born and raised in Raleigh. While in high school, he started flight lessons at Franklin County Airport, when he was 14 years old. When he was 16 years old, he got a job with Ram Air Freight at RDU. When he graduated high school, he got into FIT (Florida Institute of Technology) and graduated with a degree in aviation management. Prior to accepting the position in Franklin County, he was Airport Manager at Treasurer Coast International Airport in Fort Pierce, FL and he also taught two Aeronautical Science classes at Fort Pierce Central High School for five days a week. He feels he and his team have been able to accomplish a lot at this airport. The biggest thing is they've just started an \$8 million maintenance hangar. This airport is like every airport in this country, in that it's a reflection of its community and is unique. He feels that the things he has learned there, he will bring here. He said the economic development experience he got will probably serve him the best in Franklin County. Michael Baker Engineering was one of their consultants, so he's completed several projects with them. He's very excited about coming home to NC. Mrs. Harris asked Mr. Wiatrak to talk about his work teaching young people at the high school and collegiate level. Mr. Wiatrak said about two years ago, he was approached by Embry-Riddle, which is an aviation university in Daytona. They had satellite programs at certain high schools around the state and the gentleman running the program in Fort Pierce asked him would he be interested in teaching a class. Of course, he said yes, he'd be interested, but I have a job during the day. The more he got to know about the program, he was really convinced to give it a try for at least one semester. Each day, from about 12:00 to 1:45, he teaches classes at Fort Pierce Central High School. These students are dual enrollment, so they are high school students that have applied and been accepted into this Embry-Riddle program. Now, this doesn't guarantee them entrance into Embry-Riddle when they graduate high school, but it does give them college credits. This was something I was more than happy to see that you were very interested in. I would like to work with you to figure out a good curriculum. I can design the courses and pick the best courses, and then we can present it to your local school board. I don't think I need to tell anyone in this room that this country is going through a shortage of aviation professionals. I see it as our job to fill that void of pilots, airport managers, aviation professionals, etc. because kids just don't seem interested in it until they are exposed to it. Chairman Allers said through your professional organizations and the job you're in, I would assume you've got a pretty good network of business people and aviation people whose experience you could bring here, as well. Mr. Wiatrak said he definitely does and he's been thinking about that. He has a lot of well-established businesses who he feels would see this airport as having potential. The same things he's been selling his current location on, he could sell the county's airport on, as well. He said he doesn't know a lot about the region, but he sees this airport and Johnston County as sort of being the only real regional airports in the region, so he sees them as our competition. Mr. Wiatrak said he looks forward to talking with Michael Baker Engineering about how the county got the DOT grant because it's a big deal. In this state, getting a \$12 million grant is huge and our DOT puts aside about \$360 billion a year. In North Carolina, they don't put away nearly as much as that and you got \$12 million.

Next, Bo Carson gave the airport update.

1. I would like to express my sincere condolences to Mr. Sjostedt's family, as well as the family of the two females, per the aircraft incident on the night of March 1st. We will work with the family and friends during this time, regarding any belongings of theirs in the hangar that was rented.
2. I would like to thank my staff for their time and efforts during this very difficult time. As you can imagine, any time you suffer a tragedy of people, you directly and indirectly know, it is hard. Thanks to their hard work that night and the following days as we had to continue on with operations in the middle of an investigation.
3. Regarding the investigation, the FAA, NTSB, aircraft, engine and insurance investigators were here for four days and have concluded their work on the field going through paperwork and interviews.
4. Status update on the field: All t-hangars are leased. Five of the storage areas are leased. Two of the office and corporate hangars are leased. Still working with corporate leases with the remaining businesses. Will continue to have the rest executed as soon as possible.
5. Tree clearing across the street is not a result of the runway project. This action was taken to have the AWOS Wind Sensor re-activated.
6. No change in cost of fuel since last reported. 100LL is \$4.99/gallon and Jet A is \$4.79 a gallon.
7. As reported at the last meeting, the sewer project to the Airport grant has been extended and will be coming soon to the Airport. The deadline has been extended to May 2019. Current plans for installation are for the project to begin in March 2019.

Grant updates:

- a. Master Layout Plan (MLP): This project will shortly be underway. Seeking approval of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners to move forward with work authorization next Monday at their meeting.
- b. LED Lighting: This project has begun. Design and field study work is currently in process.
- c. TNEA has been awarded a NCDOA Maintenance Contract worth \$225,000 (up \$50,000 from when last reported). Status update from this project.
 - Runway, taxiway, and apron have all been routed, cleaned, sterilized and sealed.
 - T-hangar area has all be routed and ready for the next phase once initiated.
 - Beacon/MALSRs are being evaluated for repair.
 - Runway and taxiway are currently being power washed and re-painted this week. There will be new fresh paint, enhanced lines and a new look to this area.
 - Next phase once this is complete, is to power wash/paint apron, as well as start the seal process on the t-hangar area, as we move toward the corporate end for its work.

- The repainting of all the taxiway lines will be done, as well. They will be done with bright paint and glass beads. It'll be extended down to the 5th t-hangar where the line doesn't exist today and wrapping around. Then, they will touch up some on the corporate end, so the customer knows where they need to keep their planes away from, in terms of the taxiway, because of Captive-Aire's large plane.
- 8. NOTAMs. Please make sure that everyone is observant of the NOTAMs issued. I know this process can be painful, but the return will be rewarding. I am sending out communications through email, displayed on the terminal, as well as through the LHZ Pilots Association. I try to inform everyone as soon as plans are revealed to me. Council Member Stover asked how much longer do they anticipate taking. Mr. Carson said initially, it was a 31-day process. However, with the wet weather, they have been delayed tremendously. Right now, he hopes by Monday the runway will be done and then the parallel taxiway would be next. In terms of being fully operational, he thinks by Monday or Tuesday of next week it shouldn't be an issue of people getting in and out. He expects within 3-4 weeks it should be completed, if not sooner.

Mr. Carson asked Jared Penny to introduce himself. Mr. Penny said he was a former NCDOA employee prior to joining the Michael Baker Engineering team. He looks forward to working with everyone here and growing this airport.

The sixth item on the agenda was update on status of the Master Layout Plan. Jared Penny said this is being presented to the County Commissioners next Monday night for their review and approval. The design for the LEDs has started, but he doesn't have the schedule at this time.

The seventh item on the agenda was distribution of sample bylaws from other airport advisory councils. Mr. Penny said he had bylaws from Wayne County because they are an advisory board, as well. Also, he has bylaws from Sanford. They are an authority, but he thinks they might be helpful, as well. Chairman Allers asked Council Members Donahue and Stover to take a look at these bylaws and see if they might work for us, and report back at the next meeting.

Chairman Allers said once Mr. Wiatrak is here and settled in, he feels we need to have a retreat to reevaluate our mission statement and goals to make sure we are headed in the right direction.

The eighth item on the agenda was update on status of memoriam plaque. Council Member Stover said we've raised between \$1,400-\$1,500. He had to move the money from the GoFundMe account, so it is in his own savings account now. He has shared the verbiage with Jack Avent and he's all for it. Mr. Carson said he would provide him with the contact information for Mrs. Merritt. He has met with Neal Stewart, who did the plaque we have out front. Mr. Stewart recommended we do something similar to the mural Tar Banks in Louisburg has on the side of it building, which is acrylic. He says we should be able to do that and have some money left over. Any funds left over would be given to the Civil Air Patrol scholarship, which was set up in Mr. Merritt's name. He says he hopes to have a dedication ceremony sometime between now and early summer.

- The next meeting will be April 9th at 5:30 p.m.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., Council Member Donahue made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Dickens. The motion passed unanimously.