

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Advisory Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on March 13, 2018, in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Tom Bregger, Shelley Dickerson, David Bunn and Herman Dickens. Also, in attendance were Bo Carson (Interim Airport Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Ken Burger (Michael Baker Engineering), Pam Fowler (Pilot), Lin Oakley (Pilot), Mike O'Kelley (Airport Tenant), and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Commissioner Taylor Bartholomew.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the February 13, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Bunn motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Dickens seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was public comments. Chairman Allers called for comments from the public. Pam Fowler said she would like to know where are we on our lease agreement and what's going on with it. Pete Tomlinson said there is no approved lease, yet. The County Commissioners have asked him to get information from surrounding airports on t-hangars, pertaining to what we can and can't do. Mr. Tomlinson said that at this time, it is not on the agenda for the upcoming (March 19th) County Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Bunn said that he was going to ask Kristen King, Clerk to the Board, if it could be placed on the agenda or not.

Mrs. Fowler said she had spoken with Commissioner Stover recently about the discussion from a previous meeting, about having an open house at the airport, to bring interest to the airport. Many people don't know that this airport exists, and it's a jewel. She's been involved in two (2) national events (fly-ins), and she is going to give her contact information to Commissioner Stover. She would be more than happy to serve as organizer for any event we would like to have at the airport, and is willing to help in any way. Commissioner Stover thanked Mrs. Fowler, and said that he and Commissioner Bregger have been talking about how we want to get the non-flying population out here. We have tremendous resources here, and we need to figure out how to make them available to everyone – not just pilots.

The fourth item on the agenda was airport update by Bo Carson. Mr. Carson said he submitted the 2018-19 budget for the airport last Friday, which is about \$900,000. This is a little increase from the last couple of years, but the airport is growing. Mr. Carson said he also provided a list of capital improvements for the airport, over the next three years, which is about \$475,000.

Mr. Carson said we've been having some issues with the terminal gate, with it opening and not closing. It seems to happen quite a bit when it's raining, but it is working. We've had someone check it and we will have it fixed. Also, we have realized that some of the gate cards have an end date, and are expiring. If you experience your card not working at the gate, please let us know. Mr. Carson said the tug is currently out of commission because the motor burned up in it. It is at a repair shop, so we can get an estimate to see how much it will cost to rebuild the motor. Commissioner Stover said are we getting to the point where we may need to have two tugs – one for a backup? Mr. Carson said that is something that could be in the 3-4 year plan, but they are very expensive. Mr. Carson said they removed some items at the airport – an old car and an awning, which was at Triangle Skydiving and was damaged. Mr. Carson said at the last meeting, he mentioned that he had received a letter from the FAA, referencing a Let Blanik (N553FC) L-13 aircraft, with serial #173042, which Triangle North Executive Airport was given. The FAA had requested that we register the tail number, if we wanted to keep it active. Mr. Carson spoke with Mr. Tomlinson about this, and it was decided not to register the tail number for the glider, based on the fact that it is not flyable. Even if we had it repaired, you still couldn't fly it.

Mr. Carson said the widening of US 401 is moving forward. It looks like construction will be sometime in the July/August timeframe of this year. This will surely bring more businesses this way, as well.

There continues to be a lot of interest in the airport, and he has been working with Jim Farthing and Ken Burger to discuss all the options available to the County. Also, in regards to the \$10.9 million we are going to receive from the NCDOT-Division of Aviation, it is actually \$12.2 million. Mr. Carson said it is his understanding that the reason it is not published as \$12.2 million is because the DOA awards the money in steps.

Mr. Carson said the airport continues to have space needs regarding existing businesses, as they continue to grow here.

We currently have three (3) confidential projects looking for hangar related real estate. The airport and the County are working with them, and assessing opportunities, as it applies to our awarded grant.

Mr. Carson said he will be giving a tour of the airport on March 28th to twenty-five Louisburg High School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program students, as well as arranging a tour of Palziv for them.

Current fuel cost is \$4.99 for Avgas and \$4.69 for Jet fuel. We will be analyzing our cost as it relates to other airports.

We are going to work to remove the debris field between the skydivers building and the north hangar in the near future. Because of safety reasons, we are going to relocate the pile, so it will be safe for grass cutting and everyone. Also, there are small trees and shrubs popping up across the tarmac, etc. We are not supposed to have them inside the fenced in area, so we will be getting them removed.

Currently, we have two spaces for tiedowns available and our t-hangars and hangar spaces are completely full. We have 16 on the t-hangar waiting list.

In other business:

- Commissioner Stover said he wasn't at the last meeting, but why are we an advisory board now and not a commission? We have been a commission for over 10 years, and he feels we've done a great job in making sure this airport grew, and in his opinion, it's probably one of the best airports in the state. Commissioner Bregger said we were advised by the attorney that we could have personal liability if we remained as a commission. Commissioner Bunn said the attorney advised the County Commissioners that it was the proper thing to do, because some possible wrongdoings had been brought to light during a closed session at the last County Commissioner's meeting. Commissioner Dickens said he got the same information, that there would be personal liability issues if we remained as a commission, and we could possibly be sued individually. Commissioner Stover said that isn't what we've been told before by the two previous attorneys. Will we be involved in the hiring of a new Airport Manager? Pete Tomlinson said he couldn't speak for the Board of County Commissioners or the County Manager, but he would think that this council would be involved in some way in the hiring of the new Airport Manager. However, you will not be voting on it.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.