

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Minutes

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

In attendance were Commissioners: 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), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Michael O'Kelley (Airport Tenant), Dale Massey (Airport Employee), Jonathan Forney (works with Rick Pahnke) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Commissioner Taylor Bartholomew

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the June 12, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Dickens motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Bunn seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The fourth item on the agenda was airport update by Bo Carson. Mr. Carson said we started the planning process for the \$12.2 million grant that we were awarded in 2017. The first phase of this is the airport layout plan. We are having an aerial survey prepared by a company called Woolpert. The County Commissioners have approved \$35,600 upfront, which will be reimbursed later by the Division of Aviation, to have this aerial and ground survey work done in advance. The idea is to have it done before the leaves fall, so we're not waiting until next spring. They have flown the airport and have been here for a week and will be submitting all their paperwork to Michael Baker Engineering. We expect dirt to move around 2021. Again, the idea is to extend the runway 1,000 feet. Currently, it's two feet short of 5,500, so it hopefully will be going to 6,502 feet. The second part regarding the master layout plan, is that there is a compliance documentation that we have to fulfill. In looking at airport operations, we are currently in a position that we didn't have anything under current leases and agreements, and we wanted to put that in writing. They do this because they like to see that the airport people are committed here, since they are going to invest \$12.2 million they want to see that this is going to be a situation where the airport is going to continue to grow. Mr. Carson said he has discussed this with two of the corporate clients and they are reviewing it right now, and then he will move on down the line to everyone else. Commissioner Stover said before we go any further, he asked that the newest council member be introduced. Bo Carson said Frank Donahue is

a great asset for this advisory council. He is the current Commander of the Civil Air Patrol here. Commissioner Donahue said he is also a current tenant here at the airport with Carolina Aero Group.

Mr. Carson said we have been going through the t-hangar leases. We currently have 12 of our 34 owned hangars under a new lease, and he is working with the others to hopefully have them in the near future under lease, as well. Mr. Carson said Commissioner Stover had mentioned that he had some questions about the leases. Commissioner Stover said he'd like to know what these new leases entail, and didn't these folks already have leases? Mr. Carson said no, they did not. There are existing leases in terms of the original eleven (before the county took over) and there are 34 that are basically month-to-month. Commissioner Stover said so, we are basically putting together a lease for these hangars that don't have leases. Mr. Carson said there are two that will not be resigning their leases – Tom Clancy, who doesn't have an aircraft, nor intends to get one in the next nine months to a year, and Tom Bregger who has moved to the western part of the state. We have a huge waiting list who are interested in our t-hangars, so we'll be going down that list and signing people up. Commissioner Donahue said he definitely has some concerns about the lease document, and he has spoken with Mr. Carson about this. There are a number of things he feels need to be addressed with individuals or it should have been addressed by the stakeholders on the field prior to it going out. There's a list of FAA owner/maintenance items that are typically accomplished inside the hangars. The lease says there's a common area to perform those things, but for many of these things, it's just not practical to remove the plane from the hangar. Chairman Allers asked that Mr. Carson continue with his report and then we could come back to Commissioner Donahue's concerns. Mr. Carson said Commissioner Donahue and others have brought these concerns to his attention, so we are talking with them to address their concerns. Commissioner Stover said keep in mind that there's a difference between certified aircraft and experimental aircraft. With experimental aircraft, basically the owner can do anything he wants because he is the manufacturer. Also, it's not at all uncommon today to see people rent a hangar to build an airplane, and we don't want to discourage that because that's probably the fastest growing part of general aviation today.

Bo Carson said he's gotten feedback about the rules and regulations document and it's been tweaked. He'll be presenting it to the County Commissioners on November 19th. This document hasn't been updated since 2010, and we plan to have it updated, so it can meet compliance requirements.

Mr. Carson said we were awarded a \$1.521 million grant to rehab the airfield lighting system. This required a county match of \$169,000, which has already been approved by the County Commissioners. The documents have been reviewed and submitted and will soon go into the PartnerConnect, which is the state's system, and then we should see activity in 2019. All the lights and signs will be replaced. The beacon rehab may be repainted, also.

Mr. Carson said we do have many people coming and going, primarily on tie-downs. Overall, this airport continues to flourish with new people coming in. The wait list right now is 30+.

Mr. Carson said Project Panther has renewed its third-year option on the land adjacent to the airport. This is the piece of land between Alliance One and the large corporate hangars. We are continuing to work

with them and hope their plans to build a large hangar, as well as a manufacturing facility, comes to fruition. Also, we've had continued interest on the north end of the airport, with someone wanting to build two 120x100 hangars. We are going to speak with him and see what his requirements and needs are.

Mr. Carson said reactivating the wind sensor on the AWOS has been an ongoing issue. He has received approval from the County Commissioners to remove the trees on the county/airport property that are within the 1,000-foot radius of the wind sensor, as well as other trees on the county's land. Part of the parcels that are within the AWOS range are under control of the Kerr-Tar Regional Economic Development Corporation, so we will be going through the approval process with KTREDC to get their permission to remove the trees on their parcels. Hopefully, approval will be granted by the end of the year.

Mr. Carson said Angela Harris has some exciting news regarding sewer at the airport. Mrs. Harris said most of you are aware that we've had a sewer project on the business park side, and it just made sense to bring sewer to the airport side. We've come in under budget, so we have petitioned the state and requested consideration of those funds. The cost would be approximately \$185,000 and it would come out of the grant we've been awarded, and then we will actually return – if everything goes as estimated – a few funds back to the state.

Mr. Carson said continued maintenance continues to be a necessity around the airport. He's not going to go through the entire list, but he just wanted to let everyone know that the county has been addressing numerous items regarding our properties, field, etc. We will continue to look at things that are needed and make adjustments. Angela Harris said we will have to take a look at this at budget time because there are some needs, in terms of manpower and maintenance items, that need to be addressed.

Mr. Carson said the Avgas and jet fuel trucks have been serviced and approved by the NC Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Our fuel price has increased as of last week for both Avgas and jet fuel by 10 cents. Avgas is at \$5.19 and jet fuel is at \$4.79. Our three largest customers for fuel are Captive-Aire Systems, Total Flight Solutions and Triangle Skydiving Center.

Mr. Carson said the Airport Manager's position has been posted and closed. The applications are being reviewed and then interviews will be held.

Mr. Carson said there have been several groups to visit the airport. Leadership Franklin, which is a group sponsored by the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, brought 15 of their leaders in business, government and academia to tour the airport, as well as existing industries throughout the county. Mr. Carson said he has been in discussion with Laureen Jones, Franklin County Schools – CTE Director, about developing an AOPA curriculum at Louisburg High School. This will be a four-year training program as part of their STEM program. We hope we can get more interest in aviation, by using the assets we have in our backyard, to help fulfill some of the needs of the future.

Mr. Carson said we celebrated the US 401 widening project this morning. We are very excited about this because it will be a huge win, not only for the county, but for the airport, as well. The projected date for opening that roadway is the middle of June 2022.

Chairman Allers said as far as the lease issues, could Commissioner Donahue and Mr. Carson get together and talk about this? Commissioner Donahue said you may want to produce a clarification document because there's going to be a lot of people with the same questions. The FAA has posted all of their versions of these things to address them, and they've done it in a narrative. It's actually written in a frequently asked questions scenario.

In other business:

- Jim Farthing said the Division of Aviation is updating their statewide plans and the economic impact statement. The last time they did that was in 2012. Hopefully, they will have that document available by March, which is when the next state conference in Pinehurst is.
- Commissioner Stover said Jack Avent has approached him again, and he wants to make another donation to the airport. He has three bookcases of aviation books that he'd like to donate. Also, Commissioner Stover said he's still working on how to raise the money for the plaque in memoriam of Steve Merritt. Neal Stewart has indicated he could do it pretty reasonably. Commissioner Stover said he is going to talk with the Pilots Association to see if they'd be willing to hold the funds.
- The next meeting will be December 11th at 5:30 p.m.

At approximately 6:05 p.m., Commissioner Donahue made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Stover. The motion passed unanimously.