

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on January 8, 2013 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Herman Dickens, Guy Martin, Taylor Bartholomew, Don Lancaster, Shane Mitchell and Phillip Stover. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Attorney-Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Paul Fayard (Fayard Enterprises) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times).

The second item on the agenda was review and approval of the minutes from the October 9, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Martin motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Dickens seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was election of officers. Commissioner Dickens nominated John Allers for Chairman, with Commissioner Martin seconding. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Dickens nominated Phillip Stover for Vice Chairman, with Commissioner Martin seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The fifth agenda item was airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said fuel prices have come down very slightly, but for the last 1-2 loads we purchased, we didn't charge enough (as compared to other airports), so we're staying at \$5.99/gallon for Avgas. Jet fuel price is pretty steady. Mr. Merritt said when he started working at the airport, they use to check every Monday morning to see what Johnston County was charging for fuel, but of course now, Johnston County is doing the same thing to us. Mr. Merritt said the skydiving facility is doing great and has had record weekends recently. They are trying to figure out how to become more aggressive and grow faster. Mr. Merritt said sales are down a little from this December to last December, but we are still ahead for the year.

The sixth agenda item was budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we were way ahead of budget a month ago because we hadn't bought fuel, and although we have now purchased fuel, we are still ahead. We are \$25,000 to the positive, which at this time of the year, is great. Mr. Merritt said he had previously mentioned at a previous meeting that the John Deere tractor would be needing repairs. It has now been repaired (broken PTO shaft) and the cost was \$7,900.

The seventh item on the agenda was discussion of seeking funds to clear property that was timbered by Chairman Allers. Chairman Allers said he spoke with Ronnie Goswick about the land clearing and the fact that all the trees were cut down, so we will need to have some trees planted

because of the 500' buffer area being affected. Mr. Goswick is working with Fred Harris (NC Forestry Service) to map out what needs to be done and what would be best planted there.

The eighth item on the agenda was update on hangar development lease by Steve Merritt and Pete Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson said Chuck Murray is on vacation, but a draft of the lease has been given to Angela Harris for her review. Mr. Murray will be out for another week, but Mr. Tomlinson hopes to have the lease back soon for Paul Fayard to review.

Paul Fayard said he has everything ready to go and he's already put a deposit on the hangar doors. He'd like to go ahead and order the hangar itself, which means another deposit and ten weeks for delivery. He would like to know how soon he can review the lease agreement, so he can at least get the hangar ordered. Mr. Tomlinson said he should have the draft of the lease to Mr. Fayard next week or possibly by the end of this week for his review.

The ninth item on the agenda was bid results for gate replacement by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said at last month's meeting, we discussed how much it would cost to replace the vehicle gates, which is approximately \$60,000. This project is FAA reimbursable at 90%. Commissioner Stover motioned that Mr. Merritt move forward with replacing the gates and filing for reimbursement on the project. Commissioner Bartholomew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jim Farthing noted that this is a little more than just replacing the gates themselves. It also includes replacing the electrical and all the wires, so this is somewhat of an upgrade to what the airport currently has.

The tenth item on the agenda was reimbursement request for large hangar by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we discussed at last month's meeting that the lien holder (Jack Benusiglio) on the maintenance hangar has been paid in full, and we are able to get reimbursed for the \$174,000 through the NCDOT-Division of Aviation. There are a couple of procedural issues with this. Chastity Clark (NCDOT-DOA) is leaving as of 1/18, so it will be like starting over again. Her replacement will be Phil Lanier. She has handed the request to Richard Walls (Director, NCDOT-DOA), but because of the change in the current administration, Mr. Walls may be gone soon too. We will have to wait until next month to find out if this qualifies for reimbursement or not.

The eleventh item on the agenda was discussion of TIP. Jim Farthing said that at last month's meeting, we talked about the TIP program, but it could not be voted on due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Farthing passed out updated information on the TIP, based on the last meeting. This is what will be entered online via the NCDOT-DOA's website for the fiscal years 2014-18. What you see for 18+ will not be shown on the DOT's project list and we can pull these items up into earlier years as needed or if needed as things develop at the airport. This can be changed during the course of the year, also. Commissioner Lancaster motioned that the TIP listing be presented to County Commissioners for their review and approval, with Commissioner Dickens seconding. The motion passed unanimously. Steve Merritt will present this to the County Commissioners at their January 22nd meeting.

In other business:

- Chairman Allers said we failed to have a quorum at a few meetings, and he would like to discuss if the meeting day and/or time should be changed. After a brief discussion, the consensus was that the meeting day would stay the same, but the time would be changed from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

- Commissioner Mitchell asked what type of operation Paul Fayard would have in his proposed hangar. Would the planes come in for repairs and if so, where will they be stored and what about any overflow. Mr. Merritt said they will be stored in Mr. Fayard's hangar and any overflow would be on the tarmac. Commissioner Mitchell asked would this take away from our regular customers being served. Mr. Merritt said we would charge a fee for any overflow, and we are also discussing building extra space for larger planes to be stored.
- Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any written stipulations, which says that the airport's current hangar owners can't sublet their hangars for less than what the airport is charging them for rent. In other words, they shouldn't sublet their hangar for less than the county's going rate, so they aren't competing with the county. Mr. Merritt said he will check into this and he feels he can work out something.
- The next meeting will be on February 12th at 5:30 pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.