

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on February 14, 2017 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Guy Martin and Herman Dickens. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Tom Bregger (Pilot), Michael Schriver (County Commissioner), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Commissioners Taylor Bartholomew, Don Lancaster and David Bunn.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the December 13, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Martin motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Stover 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 the airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said fuel sales are up, and we sold 2,000 gallons in the last four days. Rampart Aviation, who were located at the former parachute center on NC 56, still have an airplane here, so they are doing their training here and using fuel.

Russ Singer's hangar, which was leased for 20 years, has now expired, and we now have all our airport equipment under one roof. This gives us two hangars, which we have available to rent now.

Since the last meeting, we received notice from CAMPO that we will be awarded \$10,980,000.00 for funding from NCDOT. We will receive the official notice sometime in June.

Franklin County EMS has built a shelter for their emergency ambulance, which is removable.

Mr. Merritt said we have two airplanes on the grass because we have nowhere to put them. Once we get sewer here, we'll be able to pave out there and that will give us about 10 more acres to use.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said each department pays a certain percentage towards the county government insurance pool, and that was recently deducted from our insurance and bonds line item. We are at 57% of fuel sales, and our estimated property tax for 2016 is \$132,500.

The sixth item on the agenda was the runway extension project update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said as he said earlier, we've gotten the commitment from CAMPO for the NCDOT funds.

We are the only general aviation airport in Division 5, except for Person County, but they aren't in CAMPO. When we started applying for the funds a year ago, we knew if they put any money towards aviation, we'd get some of the funding. This is all state money, and it's handled the same way as the DOT handles federal money. The funds will be available at the end of 2018, so we have a year and half to go. Mr. Merritt said one of the things he's most excited about is straightening the access road. Also, we can reroute Sam Horton Rd. and extend the runway. If we stage the projects just right, we should have minimal disruption.

The seventh item on the agenda was dedication of property tax receipts and airport net receipts to airport fund by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said in May of 2009, the County Commissioners voted to allow the airport to retain revenues and ad valorem taxes capped at \$1,000,000. The airport would reinvest these funds into projects approved by the Airport Commission and the County Commissioners. Mr. Merritt said this transfer has never happened. He's spoken with Angela Harris several times and she seems much more receptive to it now. Mr. Merritt said he'd like for he and Chairman Allers to sit down with Mrs. Harris, and discuss the whole concept. Commissioner Dickens made the motion that Chairman Allers and Mr. Merritt meet with Angela Harris, with Commissioner Stover seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business:

- Steve Merritt said the Economic Development office is working with a prospect for the shell building at Triangle North Franklin. Also, he's working closely with the Economic Development office on an industrial development prospect for lot #1 near the tobacco receiving station/distribution warehouse facility.
- Steve Merritt said Wake Electric will be installing two electric charging stations at the airport. Mr. Merritt said once they are installed, he's going to list the airport as a charging station destination on Tesla's website. Also, he's going to talk with Wake Electric about the possibility of putting solar panels on some of the hangars.
- Steve Merritt said he's meeting with a customer on Friday who is interested in having a larger, speculative hangar. A builder/developer would build the hangar and we'd sublease to the customer.
- The next meeting is April 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.