

# TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

## Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on March 13, 2012 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Taylor Bartholomew, Herman Dickens, Phillip Stover, Guy Martin and Don Lancaster. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Tom Bregger (LHZ Pilots Association), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson) and Carey Johnson (The Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting was Commissioner Shane Mitchell.

The second item on the agenda was review and approval of the minutes from the February 14, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Dickens motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Bartholomew seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third agenda item was public comments. Chairman Allers called for comments from the public. Tom Bregger said this would be the last meeting he would be able to attend because he has been nominated to the Board of Elections. He said the Pilots Association is working a great deal to bring other pilots to the airport, and to do whatever they can to boost airport revenue and traffic.

The fourth item on the agenda was an update on airport operations by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we are in the process of upgrading the Jet fuel truck to ATA 103 standards in order to prepare for contract fueling for Rampart Aviation. Jet fuel is such a low grade of petrol product that it has to be filtered a lot, so we're getting new filters placed on the truck. Mr. Merritt said sales are up 7.5% over February last year, with the same gross margin percentage. Triangle Skydiving Center has completed the construction of an observation deck for their customers, which is adjacent to their hangar. The deck can accommodate about 500 people and TSC's customers are already enjoying it. TSC had a great weekend last weekend, with 450 people skydiving, and they are booked solid for the next two (2) months. Mr. Merritt said Brett James Aviation is now operational in hangar B. The business is doing well, and specializes in performing maintenance on Malibu and Meridian aircraft. The hangar is already full with customers needing repairs. Mr. Merritt said we have been working on the overnight camping issue because there shouldn't be any camping over at the Triangle North Franklin site. We have established an area on the extreme south end of the airport property, which is next to the American Legion hut on M.C. Wilder Rd. Mr. Merritt said if no one objects, he would like to have a trial run for 90 days to see if it works well for all concerned. Most of the campers drive here from Greensboro to skydive, so this would be much more convenient for them than driving back and forth on the weekends. Mr. Merritt said they know there will be absolutely no alcohol on the premises and they won't be allowed to camp if they don't follow this rule. Greg Upper has too much invested in his skydiving business to allow this to happen. The Commission asked attorney Pete Tomlinson to look into this matter to

make sure the county would not be held liable if anything should happen to anyone on the campsite.

Mr. Merritt said we have established a semi-permanent meeting room for the LHZ Pilots Association in t-hangar #7. In the past, we've had cookouts at the airport and we'd use the big hangar, but because that's completely rented, there was no place for the cookouts. The Pilots Association will be cleaning up the t-hangar and up-fitting it for monthly cookouts. In the future, should anyone want to rent the t-hangar, the cookouts could easily be moved elsewhere.

Mr. Merritt said Total Flight Solutions has added a fourth rental aircraft due to demand.

Mr. Merritt said at the last meeting, we discussed the need for large (50' wide) hangars to accommodate the Piper Malibu aircraft. We have someone interested in building these hangars, and Mr. Merritt would like to discuss this with the attorney and report back to the Commission at a future meeting to discuss, and then eventually take this to the County Commissioners for their review and approval. If we can get the terms of the lease right and everybody is in agreement, this will be a good thing for the airport.

Mr. Merritt said we've had an interest in establishing a medical examiner's branch office at the airport with Dr. Phillip Stover, which would be located on the first floor of the big hangar. There are other airports, such as in Sanford and Greensboro, which have medical examiners on-site. Mr. Merritt said since Dr. Stover is an Airport Commission member, he didn't know if this would be a conflict of interest or not. The consensus of the Airport Commission was that Mr. Merritt continue talking with Commissioner Stover to work out a lease agreement.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said last month, the budget was \$20,000 in the negative, but this month, we are \$10,000 to the positive. This has to do with the inventory of fuel imbalance again. We are at 70% of our expenses, which is on target. We will probably be over in the fuel purchases account because we budgeted \$450,000, but because of higher fuel prices, we'll end up spending about \$500,000. Fuel prices are about 20% higher than last year at this time.

The sixth item on the agenda was status of land acquisition by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the reimbursement agreement has been signed, and the resolution for the grant agreement is on the County Commissioner's agenda for March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The seventh item on the agenda was an update on High Flight. Tom Bregger said we are still planning on going forward with the High Flight this year, probably sometime in September. We are working with a consultant, who has done air shows before and has some other connections, and may be able to get static displays here. Mr. Bregger said the consultant knows that this is a family day event, as opposed to an air show. An air show has to have more involvement from the FAA due to certain rules and regulations, so we'd like to keep this strictly a family event.

In other business:

- Chairman Allers said at a future meeting, he'd like to discuss scheduling a workshop sometime in September to discuss long range needs for the TIP.
- There will be no meeting in April. The next meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.