

# TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

## Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on April 9, 2013 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Guy Martin, Don Lancaster, Taylor Bartholomew, and Phillip Stover. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Attorney-Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Ernesto Ibbott (Pilots Association) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting were Commissioner David Bunn and Commissioner Herman Dickens.

The second item on the agenda was review and approval of the minutes from the February 12, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Martin motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Bartholomew seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was public comments. Chairman Allers called for comments from the public. Steve Merritt announced that Ernesto Ibbott is the new President of the LHZ Pilots Association.

The fourth agenda item was airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said things have been running smoothly at the airport. To show you how the weather can make all the difference, we pumped \$400 worth of gas to the jumpers two weeks ago, but this past weekend, we pumped \$4,500 worth. The price of Av gas is still up, but Jet fuel is down about five cents. All the corporate hangars are full and we have 15 people on the waiting list. Also, we are down to two tie-down spaces available. Mr. Merritt said the sky diving business is growing at a good rate and they want to expand, so they want another hangar, if we can do that. The south gate has been replaced and is operational and the north gate will be operational this week. The conference room telephone and outlets on the conference table are operational. We have a new Wi-Fi access point that increases reception of Wi-Fi signals in the lobby and throughout the terminal building. We have a new cell phone booster in the lobby, which increases reception of cell phone signals. Also, we have ordered new seats for the conference room. Mr. Merritt said we are in discussions with the FAA about relocating the wind sensor from the AWOS with a remote sensor. Mr. Merritt said he's been complaining since he came to the airport about it not being accurate. Mr. Merritt said the parking lot for Triangle Skydiving is too small for all their jumpers and visitors to park in, and we really need to increase the size of the lot. We're going to take the fence and move it 35' northeast, remove some dirt and put down gravel. We aren't sure how much it will cost, but we will get some estimates on this and have this information at a future meeting.

The fifth agenda item was budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the budget shows about \$3,000 to the positive at the end of March and we are at 74% of our expenses and 72% of our revenues. We are over in professional services because of attorney fees (two attorneys), but

we hope we will be able to get some of this back. The utilities account is over because Wake Electric had some old meters here for about 10 years and we have under paid significantly for our electricity. For instance, we were paying \$30 for the runway lights, but that is now \$300. Once Wake Electric installed digital meters, that's when they realized what was going on, and they charged us 150 days back, which is how far the law allows them to go back. Mr. Merritt said even though we had low sales in both February and March, we are still showing a slight positive.

Chairman Allers asked that beginning with the next meeting, Mr. Merritt give an update on the grant accounts.

The sixth item on the agenda was update on hangar development project by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the lease is basically completed, but there are still some grammatical errors and minor things to work out.

In other business:

- Ernesto Ibbott said he has been President of the LHZ Pilots Association for about a month now. He said they are talking about having monthly cookouts and fly-ins at the airport.
- Commissioner Stover asked if the airport was going to have another "High Flight" event in the future. Steve Merritt said when the "Franklin County Fire Fighters Association 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration" was held at the airport last October he spoke with Johnny Hight of the Sheriff's Dept. about these events being combined.
- The next meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

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