

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on April 11, 2017 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Tom Bregger, David Bunn and Shelley Dickerson. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Pam Fowler (Pilot), Lin Oakley (Pilot), Larry Peoples (Pilot), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), Matt Wright (Michael Baker Engineering), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson) and Carey Johnson (Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting: Commissioners Taylor Bartholomew and Herman Dickens.

Chairman Allers welcomed new Commission member, Shelley Dickerson, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the February 14, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Stover 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. Pam Fowler and her husband, Lin Oakley, said they just sold their hangar in Kenly, and have been talking with Mr. Merritt for a few years about renting a hangar here. Now, they have decided they would like to build a 63x60 hangar here. They have two planes now and are looking to buy another one. They are working with Mr. Merritt on a lease agreement, and are hoping to be able to build a hangar soon.

The fourth item on the agenda was the airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said lightning has hit the north end gate again, and the access card programmer is not working. There is a \$10,000 solution, which would be a lightning suppressor, but it's not guaranteed to work. Wake Electric is in the process of installing two electric charging stations here. Mr. Merritt said we are excited about taking over Russ Singer's hangar lease, so we now have all our airport equipment under one roof and will have a proper shop now to work on our equipment.

Commissioner Bregger spoke of an incident that happened at the airport in Kinston, where a TSA agent walked through the FBO, without being stopped. He said Total Flight Solutions has some concerns about security at the airport, as well as lighting in and around the hangars. Also, the gate down by their hangar uses a padlock combination and the lock almost never gets locked. Commissioner Bregger says they would like a keypad access to that gate, so it will be locked at all times. Steve Merritt said our type of airport is not the same as the one in Kinston, but we do our best to screen everyone that comes through the terminal building. All other gates stay closed, and we've been trying to put a keypad on that gate, but we haven't found an inexpensive option, yet.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the county is in the process of searching for a new Finance Director, and Chuck Murray is the interim. We have about three months to go before the fiscal year end, and our budget looks very positive. Mr. Merritt said we spent the winter getting our equipment ready, and we finally started mowing this week.

The sixth item on the agenda was industrial development area update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we are finished with this project, except for Wake Electric putting in power for the new hangars. Also, we have a little work to do with the sewer and we will have to install some kind of temporary holding field. We are submitting our final request for reimbursement.

Commissioner Bregger said he flew a helicopter over this area and he has difficulty understanding how someone can build a useful hangar there because it doesn't seem large enough. Mr. Merritt pointed out the drawings from Michael Baker Engineering, which showed the area size, etc. Also, if someone needed to get in from the back of their hangar, we are prepared to move more dirt.

Commissioner Bregger said he had an inquiry today about the shell building at Triangle North Franklin and the land around it. Richie Duncan will be notified to contact Commissioner Bregger about this.

The seventh item on the agenda was the runway extension project update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we should get notice from CAMPO about the NCDOT funds sometime in June. We are very excited about straightening out the road and extending the runway. There will be two houses and two mobile homes that we will have to acquire. Commissioner Bunn asked if that was part of the \$11 million, and Mr. Merritt said yes. There will be an appraisal process, which will be like what we did when the county bought the former Anne Gordon property. Mr. Merritt said 6,500 ft. is the magic number for the runway. We will be an equal partner in Class C airspace once this is done.

The eighth item on the agenda was dedication of terminal building for Billy Lumpkin by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he had spoken with some of the attendees at Mr. Lumpkin's funeral about a memorial for him. Mr. Lumpkin was the first Chairman for the Commission, and he was also party of the study committee that built this airport 25 years ago. Since Mr. Lumpkin retired, he spent every day at Joe Ball's airport. Mr. Merritt said he would like to place a brass plaque on the terminal building to memorialize Mr. Lumpkin.

Larry Peoples said Mr. Lumpkin was always a big supporter of aviation since the 1960s, and worked tirelessly with the committee to get this airport off the ground. Mr. Peoples said he has spoken with other senior pilots, and told Mr. Merritt he'd be happy to help raise the funds to get this memorial done. Commissioner Bregger motioned that a resolution of support be adopted for the memorial to Billy Lumpkin, with Commissioner Stover seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

In other business:

- Commissioner Bregger said he looked forward to working with the Airport Commission. He works with Total Flight Solutions, is a pilot and has a plane based here. Also, he serves as Chairman of the Franklin County Board of Elections.
- The next meeting is June 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.