

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Phillip Stover on June 14, 2016 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: Phillip Stover, Herman Dickens, David Bunn, Taylor Bartholomew, Guy Martin and Don Lancaster. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Paul Schubert (Pilot) and Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering). Absent from the meeting: Chairman John Allers

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the February 9, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Lancaster 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. Vice Chairman Stover called for comments from the public. Steve Merritt said at our August 12, 2014 meeting, Brett James (James Aeronautics) said that one of our former employees had run off one of Mr. James' significant customers, and it's something we've never taken a look at. This took place in May of the previous year. Paul Schubert is a customer of Mr. James', and he would like to address this matter.

Mr. Schubert said he is a pilot and has three planes here, and he's also a customer of Brett James'. Mr. Schubert said he's intending to upgrade to a new, faster airplane, and since Mr. James is a good mechanic, he wants to keep him here. Mr. James feels that he was harmed somewhat, because the customer left the airport and flew back to Florida, and Mr. James ended up losing approximately \$13,400 on that job. Mr. Schubert said what he has suggested to Mr. James is that since he is withholding rent, he recommends that it is split down the middle. Mr. James pays half and the airport abates half of his rent. Mr. Schubert said TBM (high performance single-engine turboprop) will be setting up Brett as a service center, which will be a good thing for the airport. I think the resolution of this issue would be a good thing, as well.

Steve Merritt said Mr. James is \$12,000 in arrears on rent. He's been negotiating with Mr. James and he has probably exceeded his authority on this. Mr. James has paid last year's rent, but because he feels he's been harmed, he's withholding his rent currently.

Vice Chairman Stover said the Commission will consider entering into a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Commissioner Dickens made the motion to enter into closed session, which was seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the closed session, Commissioner Lancaster made the motion to enter back into open session, which was seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chairman Stover announced that no action was taken during closed session.

The fourth item on the agenda was the airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said our fuel prices have been higher than some airports, but we don't need to adjust this. The tie downs on the airport are all full and sometimes on the weekends, we don't have anywhere to put anyone. Commissioner Lancaster asked had there been any repercussions from the sky diving accident. Mr. Merritt said there haven't been any claims made or anything secondary to come up. We have a memorial in the area where he landed at, and the skydiving center has added another rig check.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he has no idea why the dues and subscriptions account is over by \$186, but he will look into it. We have an \$89,000 profitability for the year, and this will be our 2nd straight year of having that type of operating profit. He thinks that the 2016-17 budget will be pretty identical to the current one, with the amount allocated for the utilities account being increased.

Mr. Merritt said that Patrick Allen (former airport employee) left the airport about a month ago and moved to Puerto Rico. Dale Massey, who was previously employed with Campbell Oil Company, will start on Monday. He's quite the handy man and Mr. Merritt said he's putting him in charge of the fuel farm.

The sixth item on the agenda was application for discretionary funds to support industrial area development by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said there have been no glitches so far for the construction project on the north end, and it could be finished in 2-3 weeks.

Mr. Merritt said we have a commitment from Total Flight Solutions to build a 100 x 120 hangar. They want to expand their repair business and it will be the same deal as the Fayard's hangar. Mr. Merritt said he has given them a copy of the lease for them to take a look at.

Captive-Aire Systems has expressed interest, as well. The hangar will probably be an 80 x 80.

Mr. Merritt said the NCDOT is having a tremendous administrative problem, but we hope that we will get the letter of intent in the next couple of weeks.

The seventh item on the agenda was update on taxiway construction for former Anne Gordon property by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he previously discussed this under agenda item 6.

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