

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on December 12, 2017 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: John Allers, Phillip Stover, Tom Bregger, Shelley Dickerson and Herman Dickens. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Pete Tomlinson (Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson), Jim Farthing (Michael Baker Engineering), and Ken Burger (Michael Baker Engineering). Absent from the meeting: Commissioners David Bunn and Taylor Bartholomew.

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the October 10, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Stover motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Dickens seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was election of officers. Commissioner Dickens made the motion that the officers remain the same, with John Allers as Chairman and Phillip Stover as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Bregger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The fourth item on the agenda was public comments. Chairman Allers called for comments from the public. There were no public comments at this time.

The fifth item on the agenda was the airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said last month, the pilot controlled lighting was inoperative. As of yesterday, it has now been repaired and is operational, and a budget amendment was turned into Finance for about \$3,000 to cover the costs. Also, Mr. Merritt said the light bill is going to be higher because they were running all night.

Mr. Merritt said the AWOS is still NOTAMed to be unreliable when the wind is from the west. We are still working on a new grant to cut trees and remove most of the obstructions. The AWOS will be relocated in the runway extension project.

The sixth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said Chuck Murray has added a line item called "credit card fees" to the budget. Mr. Merritt said he's not quite understanding the figures that have been entered, and he needs to talk to Mr. Murray about this.

Mr. Merritt said we are about \$41,800 to the positive, which is great, considering November and December are usually not good sales months because of the weather. Mr. Merritt said for the 2018-2019 budget, we are going to ask that about \$20,000 be appropriated for a new roof on the terminal building.

The seventh item on the agenda was master agreement with Michael Baker Engineering. Steve Merritt said every five years, the NCDOT-Division of Aviation requires that we go through the process of requesting proposals for an engineer, and we completed this process. The documents were prepared for the County Commissioners to review and sign off on, and they have done so. The surveyor should come out in the next week or so, and the sewer contractors have already been out, so it shouldn't be long before they get started.

The eighth item on the agenda was industrial development area update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the helicopters from UNC Hospitals were planning to come here in September, and needed to get four signatures on a temporary agreement to do so. They did get two signatures, but the other two didn't happen. They were the helicopters of record for Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount, and the CEO at that time, didn't want them there. He left, and now the new CEO said we do want them at Nash General. We've gotten the septic and temporary power put in, and they've been very apologetic, but it was Nash General who changed their mind. Mr. Merritt said even though it's taking longer than we thought, he is still very hopeful that they will locate here. Mr. Merritt said we are talking with a couple of other people who want to have a hangar here, but aren't ready to shell out a million dollars.

The ninth item on the agenda was the runway extension project update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the NCDOT said to get ready in 2018 by doing whatever master plan or layout planning that we needed to do, so we can be in a position to spend that money when it gets here. If the money is allocated in 2019, but the NCDOT is saying to start a year early, then we need to know how to get that grant opened up to do so. Jim Farthing said we are going to set up a meeting with the Division of Aviation manager, and probably the project engineer, to ask them for detailed steps that we are going to have to take, and asking them when is the money going to be available, so we can get the grant procedure going and everything will be in place. We want to have that conversation with them sooner than later. Mr. Merritt said he wants to assure everyone we will be ready to receive the funds, and we are going to make sure we stay on top of it.

The tenth item on the agenda was discussion of how to market/inform county residents about Triangle North Executive Airport by Commissioner Phillip Stover and Commissioner Tom Bregger. Commissioner Bregger said he and Commissioner Stover met after the last meeting, and talked about things we can do to bring the public into this airport. Some of the ideas are: car shows, tractor shows, cook offs, antiques, arts & crafts shows, drone competition, pilot race, obstacle courses, airshows, Boy Scouts, music bands, craft beer, food truck rodeos, etc. Commissioner Bregger said he had spoken with people associated with the military, and they said maybe we

could speak with someone at Cherry Point to possibly have an airshow. The arrival and departure of aircraft is what makes these things interesting. Commissioner Bregger said he has spoken with Total Flight Solutions about giving free helicopter rides, and maybe the glider people would take someone up. Commissioner Bregger said he was at the airport in Moore County on Halloween, and airplanes were gathered in a circle. This was similar to “trunk or treat”, and so many kids came in to get candy from the airplanes. Commissioner Bregger said except for making sure the rules are followed, we wanted to leave the Airport Manager out of the planning for these events. We hope that we would have a champion (somebody from the public) who would want to organize any of the events.

Commissioner Stover said he discussed the possibility of a walking trail with Scott Hammerbacher (Planning & Inspections Director). He is somewhat supportive of doing something around the perimeter of the airport, and he said he was willing to take a look at the topo and come up with some kind of mileage for it. We talked about the possibility of using some of the CAMPO funds. Mr. Hammerbacher said he would try and put together a rough proposal, and run it by the CAMPO people. He did say we already have a lot of competition though. Commissioner Stover said he asked Mr. Hammerbacher if we could possibly combine it with Triangle North Franklin. Mr. Hammerbacher said that was something that’s already been looked at, but it’s not a good idea because there is no way to maintain it.

Chairman Allers said these are some great ideas, and he thinks it’s a great idea not putting the burden of getting all of this together on the Airport Manager. Commissioner Stover said he believes the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) would be willing to help with some of this, as well.

In other business:

- Steve Merritt said he and Pete Tomlinson have been discussing the Fayard lease and it being amended, and that has been done. However, there has been some hesitation about creating a lease for Lin Oakley and a lease for Michael Overton. Mr. Merritt said when we created the Fayard’s lease, he thought the minimum tax valuation was necessary to protect the County, but he realizes now that it wasn’t needed, so that’s why the Fayard lease was amended. Commissioner Bregger said this is an embarrassment to this airport because Mr. Oakley has been waiting for over a year to get this lease done. Pete Tomlinson said Mr. Oakley wants a lease on his terms, but the County Commissioners haven’t decided how they wanted to deal with it. The County doesn’t know if they want to own everything or if they want the individual to own the hangar. The County may also discuss whether they want to fund building a hangar(s) or not. Jim Farthing said it would probably cost about \$45-50,000, per unit, to build t-hangars. They could get the state to participate and pay 90% and the County pays 10%. The good news is it’s been identified that you do need hangars. The problem is hangars are a low priority for the Division of Aviation. Mr. Tomlinson said the draft of the lease, which Mr. Oakley sent back to him, needs to be reviewed by this board to make sure the terms, ground rent, etc. are

acceptable. Chairman Allers said that he'd like to have a special called meeting next month to discuss this particular lease. The meeting will be held on January 9th at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at the airport.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.