

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on December 15, 2015 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

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

The second agenda item was review and approval of minutes from the October 13, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Lancaster motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Martin seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

The fifth item on the agenda was the airport operations update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he lowered fuel prices by 30 cents, but our price is still higher than the surrounding airports. Sales have not dropped, so the pricing has not hurt our business.

The water line has been installed out to the industrial area project on the north end. Bids are out for the first phase and we will have a pre-bid conference in December, with the bids being opened in January. Construction should start in late February or early March. We have applied for additional funding to complete the project. We feel confident that once the bids are in, the NCDOT-Division of Aviation will allocate the funds. However, we have an alternate bid, if we should not get the additional funds.

The public hearing for the abandonment of Bryant Road will be held on January 4th.

Fiber optic lines are currently being installed.

Mr. Merritt said the economic development office has two clients interested in the shell building across the road at Triangle North Franklin. One of those clients is very interested in building a hangar for test and installation of its products.

Mr. Merritt said he and Ronnie Goswick recently attended the NBAA (National Business Aviation Association) convention in Las Vegas to solicit new business. Mr. Merritt said we found one

strong prospect called SmartSky Networks, who expressed an interest in storing aircraft. SmartSky works with installing office-like internet capability on airplanes.

Mr. Merritt said he attended the NAAA (National Agricultural Aviation Association) convention in Savannah, GA last week. He is actively contacting the convention participants to see if they would have an interest in locating an operation in Franklin County.

Mr. Merritt said Greg Upper, Triangle Skydiving Center, is actively pursuing the construction of a new building, which he discussed at our last meeting.

The sixth on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the budget is still showing a positive, with 27% expenses and 36% revenues. He continues to work with Mitchell Robinson on the capital airport fund.

The seventh item on the agenda was application for discretionary funds to support industrial area development by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he previously discussed this under agenda item 5 and asked if Jim Farthing had any further comments. Mr. Farthing said we usually hold the bids for 90 days, but Phil Lanier suggested holding them for 120 days, which would allow them time to get the funding. Mr. Farthing said he feels confident we will get the money.

The eighth item on the agenda was update on taxiway construction for former Anne Gordon property by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said as he previously discussed, the water line has been installed and bids are out for the first phase, with an alternate bid.

In other business:

- Commissioner Stover asked Mr. Merritt to comment on the recent incident involving the skydiving operations. Mr. Merritt said the incident involved one student jumper and one inexperienced jumper, and they didn't realize they couldn't land on the end of the runway. At the time, Commissioner Stover was trying to land. Mr. Merritt said he spoke with Greg Upper and Mr. Upper responded immediately.
- The next meeting will be on February 9th.

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