

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Phillip Stover on May 10, 2011 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

In attendance were Commissioners: Phillip Stover, Don Lancaster, Taylor Bartholomew, Shane Mitchell and Herman Dickens. Also, in attendance were Steve Merritt (Airport Manager), Bruce Allen (Airport Operations Specialist), Jim Farthing (The LPA Group), and Carey Johnson (The Franklin Times). Absent from the meeting were Commissioners John Allers and Guy Martin.

The second item on the agenda was review and approval of the minutes from the March 8, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Dickens motioned that the minutes be approved as read, with Commissioner Mitchell seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The fourth item on the agenda was an update on airport operations by Bruce Allen. Mr. Allen said gas prices are on the rise, and with the weather being bad in March, this affected fuel sales too. The price for Avgas is so volatile, that we can't even get a price until Mondays, but with Jet A, we can get a week's pricing on that. As of yesterday, the price for Avgas is \$5.29/gallon, and Jet A is \$4.79/gallon. Currently, all the t-hangars are occupied, and we are in the process of repairing the hangar doors, which were damaged during the storms on April 16th. Mr. Allen said although all the doors were put back up after the storms, we've got to find out what it's going to take to keep those doors from being damaged again. We are going to take the most damaged door first, and figure out a solution for that door and then move on to repairing the other doors. We also found that all the screws were not put into the doors when they were originally installed. There are 36 doors to repair, and we estimate it will take about a month to have the repairs taken care of. Mr. Allen said all the corporate hangars are rented, and we have a current tenant in one-half of the county hangar on a temporary basis at \$500/month. Mr. Allen said the airfield is operational, except for the GCO (Ground Communications Outlet). Mr. Merritt said

we are working with ILS Technical Services (Rocky Kennedy) on the GCO and hope to replace it with a RTR (Remote Transmitter/Receiver), but we are waiting on a price first. Johnston County is first in line to have a RTR installed at its airport, and once that is done, it'll be a short process to get ours installed. Mr. Allen said we have been having problems with our John Deere tractor and a new clutch is being installed on it, so this cost will be reflected in our budget.

Vice Chairman Stover asked that the newest Commission member introduce himself. Taylor Bartholomew said he is a criminal investigator with the NCDOT and he is also a pilot. He is married and has three (3) sons.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the next two (2) months should bring in more revenue, so he hopes we will get rid of the negative net operating results figure of \$16,046.59. The reason for the negative figure (\$12,076.00) in the line item insurance and bonds, is because the finance department failed to factor in liability insurance for the airport, so instead of it being the \$34,293.00 we budgeted, it was \$46,369.00. We are over in professional services, but that is because we have obtained the services of an appraiser, but that will go into a project account once we get that money from the state. Commissioner Lancaster asked Mr. Merritt to get some quotes on the insurance, and at the next meeting, he'd like to have Angela Harris and Chuck Murray in attendance to discuss this.

The sixth item on the agenda was an update on the wind damage assessment by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said there were nine (9) aircraft damaged and a Piper Tomahawk was destroyed due to the storms on April 16th. We don't insure any aircraft on the ramp, so all of these damages are to be taken care of at the expense of the owners. Two (2) to three (3) airplanes were damaged when the doors blew off the hangars, and they were hit by the doors.

The seventh item on the agenda was repairs/upgrades to t-hangars by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he met with the engineer last week to look at the hangar problems, and what we found is that they don't have any structural steel in them and beams were bent when they were put together. When the wind gets underneath the hangar, it lifts the hangar and pulls the doors up with it and then pushes it over the tracks. We have had several different countermeasures to fix them and pin them down, but we didn't account for the uplift. Mr. Merritt said he believes the doors were only rated at 80 mph, which is probably what the rating was 20 years ago, but that is higher now. Our solution is to make belaying pins a quarter turn and latch, so they will not lift up. Also, we are going to reinforce the doors because they pivot in the middle, but the straps aren't doing much good. We are going to put horizontal bars inside those beams to make them more rigid and sturdy. Mr. Merritt said this

will cost about \$10,000, and our insurance does not cover this, so it will come from our “rainy day fund”.

The eighth item on the agenda was compliance with NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) requirements by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we are in the process of working with our engineer on a containment area for the fuel farm. This will be a significant project and will probably cost about \$40,000 to \$50,000. Mr. Merritt said he wanted to make the Commission aware of this because he will be presenting a plan for the containment area at the next Airport meeting. Also, Mr. Merritt said he has been talking with Brigid Williams (The LPA Group) about washing airplanes, and he feels that the way the planes are being washed, the runoff doesn't get into the storm drain. He and Ms. Williams are going to revisit this item because we don't need to spend \$20,000 for a washing area if it's not needed.

The ninth item on the agenda was application for discretionary grant for land acquisition by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said at the last meeting, he said that he had been informed by Richard Walls (NCDOT-Division of Aviation) that there may be some discretionary funds left over at the end of the year (June 30th), and for us to put a grant request together for the land acquisition. Mr. Merritt said we hired an appraiser, and he is almost finished with the appraisal, which we will get to the NCDOT by the end of the month. Mr. Merritt said we've never gotten a discretionary grant before, except when this airport was built, so this is a very big deal.

The next item was closed session. No closed session was needed at this time.

In other business:

- There will not be a meeting held in June. The next airport meeting will be held on July 12, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the airport's conference room.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.