

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman John Allers on July 12, 2011 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

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

The second item on the agenda was review and approval of the minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Stover 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. Chairman Allers 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 he was presenting two (2) reports at this meeting – one (1) comparing June 2010 and June 2011, and one (1) comparing fiscal years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. Mr. Allen said fuel has gone up since we last bought a load, with Avgas currently at \$5.59/gallon and Jet A at \$4.55/gallon. Overall, for the two (2) fiscal years, our Avgas sales were slightly less, but the Jet A sales were substantially more. The t-hangars available for rent has remained pretty stable, with two (2) to three (3) being available for rent. We have been having some problems with our runway lights, and the rotating beacon light is on, but will not rotate. When Barnes & Powell came out to take a look at the beacon, it worked for them, but it is not working now. As for the runway lights, they have been coming on in the middle of the day and we have had reports from pilots that they sometimes aren't working at night. Barnes & Powell will be checking on this problem and the beacon light problem, as well. We had a problem with both gates being down, but we believe we have gotten these taken care of. We have implemented our monthly inspection of spill prevention

measures at the airport and everyone has been notified of what they need to do. The flight school and Plane Design both have some issues, but both have ordered the necessary items needed to fix these issues. As for the airport, we are getting ready to take bids on construction of our containment area, which Steve Merritt will address later in the meeting. Commissioner Stover asked what the status was on 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). Johnston County is first in line to have a RTR installed at its airport, and once that is done, we will be next.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we finished up the year with about a \$21,000 deficit, but with the property tax revenue that was generated, we had about \$45,000 in reserve for the airport. Mr. Merritt said the budget for 2011-2012 will be about 5% bigger than this one was. We are paying 15%-20% more for fuel and we are more fully staffed than before.

The sixth item on the agenda was an update on the repairs/upgrades to the t-hangars by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said approximately 90% of the work has been done on the first two (2) rows of hangars. The doors basically had to be reconstructed and the crew has been out there for almost two (2) months. There was some concern with the doors moving horizontally, but they have now been pinned in, and a chain, with a chain binder, has been installed in between the doors, so they won't move vertically. Mr. Merritt said he estimates they will be finished in a couple of weeks with the repairs.

The seventh item on the agenda was an update on the fuel farm spill containment project by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said The LPA Group advertised for bids for construction of the containment area, and received two (2) responses. One was for \$13,000 and the other was \$24,000. Mr. Merritt said we will continue working on getting the grant for this established, so we can use those funds for construction of the containment area.

The eighth item on the agenda was application for discretionary grant for land acquisition by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we are moving along with the discretionary grant, and we have had the 62+- acres, which is owned by Anne Gordon, appraised. Ronnie Goswick has been negotiating with Ms. Gordon, but we are having a review appraisal done because clearly there is a difference between what the appraisal says the land is worth and what she wants for it. The review appraisal should be finished in a week or so, and once we have this, Mr. Goswick will get in touch with Ms. Gordon to discuss. Mr. Merritt said he is very excited about this and feels it is trending positive.

The ninth item on the agenda was closed session.

- A. 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.
- B. The Commission will consider entering into a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) in order for the Commission to discuss a personnel matter.

Commissioner Stover made the motion to enter into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the closed session, Commissioner Stover made the motion to enter back into open session, seconded by Commissioner Martin. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Allers announced that no action was taken during closed session.

In other business:

- Steve Merritt said “High Flight” is scheduled for September 17th. Mr. Merritt said the vendors are very excited about participating in this event again this year. He has already taken care of the trams and Richie Duncan will be talking with the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce about possible sponsors. Mr. Merritt said the History Flight will not be here on that day.
- The next meeting is scheduled for August 9th at 5:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.