

TRIANGLE NORTH EXECUTIVE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Minutes

The Triangle North Executive Airport Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Phillip Stover on August 9, 2011 in the conference room of the Triangle North Executive Airport.

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

The second item on the agenda was review and approval of the minutes from the July 12, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Martin 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. There were no public comments at this time.

The fourth item on the agenda was an update on airport operations by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we actually had our biggest sale month ever last month (\$88,000), which was \$10,000 more than our previous biggest month. We did sell about 1,000 gallons less of fuel than the year before, but the price is higher too. As a matter of fact, the fuel price has gone up 20 cents in the last two (2) weeks. We do offer a discount of 10 cents a gallon, per 1,000 gallons, per month for the skydivers and the flight school. Right now, our Avgas price (\$5.99/gallon) is in the middle and below the regional average, which is \$6.06/gallon. Mr. Merritt said everything is operational at the airport, except the GCO (Ground Communications Outlet), which has been out for quite some time. We finally now have a contact to call in Atlanta for the RTR (Remote Transmitter/Receiver), so this should be taken care of soon. The cost of this project is roughly between \$6,000 to \$10,000.

The fifth item on the agenda was the budget update by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said as stated previously, we had a very good month in July. For the current budget, we budgeted \$12,000 for part-time salaries, which is \$6,000 more than what was budgeted in the 2010-2011 budget to compensate for our part-time help, Gary Hayek. Gary is spending a lot of time mowing the grass here, and when Bruce Allen and/or Dean Clark are out, Gary works in their place too. Mr. Merritt said the five (5) furlough days we have to take will pose somewhat of a problem for us, in that we will have to pay Gary to work in Bruce's and/or Dean's place when they are taking their furlough days, so that's going to cost us more. Commissioner Lancaster asked that Mr. Merritt talk with Angela Harris about this and investigate the possibility of someone from another County department working at the airport when Bruce and/or Dean are out. Of course, the employee would have to be trained to perform those duties that are required at the airport.

The sixth item on the agenda was an update on the repairs/upgrades to the t-hangars by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said the repairs to the t-hangars are complete, and the insurance adjuster will be coming out again to take a look at the t-hangars. Mr. Merritt said significant improvements were made to the t-hangars. The doors were flimsy and now they are much more sturdy and solid. Also, we now have a tie down, which ties the doors to the ground. Once the insurance adjuster comes out and takes a look at the t-hangars, we'll see what our level of coverage is.

The seventh item on the agenda was an update on the fuel farm spill containment project by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said last month, The LPA Group advertised for bids for construction of the containment area, and received five (5) responses. The two (2) lowest bids were \$13,000 and \$20,000, with Vance Construction being the lowest. Mr. Merritt said, with the approval of the Commission, he'll move forward with this project. Commissioner Lancaster made the motion that Mr. Merritt accept the bid from Vance Construction and move forward with the spill containment project, with Commissioner Bartholomew seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

The eighth item on the agenda was application for discretionary grant for land acquisition by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said he has received encouraging words from the NCDOT about the grant, however, we don't know what the amount will be. We had the first appraisal done a few months ago, and a review appraisal was done because the landowner (Anne Gordon) wants more for the land than what the first appraisal says it is worth. The review appraisal has been sent to Ms. Gordon for her review, and she is to contact Ronnie Goswick when she is ready to discuss.

The ninth item on the agenda was an update on "High Flight" by Steve Merritt. Mr. Merritt said we now have a Young Eagles program scheduled to fly kids. Tom Slater said he would do this in conjunction with Johnston County, if we fly with them a week later at an event they are having. Mr. Merritt said this is a big attraction at "High Flight", and we want to have at least 10 planes to fly kids. We will have one B-26 bomber on display and some other planes will be doing some flyovers, also. At 10:00 and 2:00, there will be a group with radio controlled jet airplanes performing.

The tenth item on the agenda was closed session. David Guin was present at the meeting and said no closed session was needed at this time.

In other business:

- The next meeting is scheduled for September 13th at 5:00 p.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.