

County Council of Beaufort County
Hilton Head Island Airport – www.hiltonheadairport.com
Beaufort County Airport – www.beaufortcoairport.com
Post Office Box 23739 – 120 Beach City Road
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29925-3739
Phone: (843) 255-2950- Fax: (843) 255-9424

AIRPORTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2011

The print media was notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Airports Board was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Chairman Pete Buchanan called the meeting to order.

It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Wirth, that the agenda for the May 19, 2011 meeting be accepted.

Mr. Dopp stated he presented to Mr. Buchanan a recommendation for inclusion on the agenda, but the item was placed under Correspondence. Mr. Dopp felt that, as a board member, he is not corresponding with the Board and felt this item deserved to be listed separately on the agenda. Mr. Buchanan stated he added the Correspondence topic in order to add items to the agenda that do not necessarily require a vote or were not submitted before the agenda deadline. Mr. Dopp did not agree and felt his item concerning a sunset date, should have been listed under New Business. Mr. Kerr stated Mr. Dopp's item was submitted after the agenda due date and that Mr. Buchanan's suggestion for a "catch all" category is beneficial. He also stated that if an item discussed during Correspondence requires further action that can be accomplished and would be included in the monthly minutes. Mr. Zimmerman asked if the subjects to be discussed under Correspondence could be listed so the Board members would know ahead of time what is to be covered. Mr. Buchanan stated if there is sufficient time this could be done. With no further discussion, Mr. Buchanan called for the vote.

The vote was: FOR – Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Law, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Gilbert. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Jorgensen. ABSTAINED – Mr. Newman. The motion passed.

It was moved by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Dopp that the minutes for the April 28, 2011 meeting be accepted. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Newman, Mr. Law, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Gilbert. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Jorgensen. The motion passed.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS – Guests attending the meeting introduced themselves. (Note: The guests at the Hilton Head Island Library could hear the meeting, but were unable to be heard at the Government Center for the first portion of the meeting.)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Pete Buchanan – Chairman
Jared Newman – Vice Chairman
Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort County Liaison
Councilman Ken Heitzke – Town of Hilton Head Liaison
Will Dopp
Joe Zimmerman
Graham Kerr
Derek Gilbert
Leonard Law
Ross Sanders
Richard Wirth

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Mazzei
Paul Jorgensen

STAFF

Paul Andres – Airport Director
Rob McFee – Director, Engineering and Infrastructure Division
Joel Phillips – Beaufort Co. Airport Supv.
Linda Wright – Admin. Asst.

GUESTS

Judy Elder – Talbert & Bright
Joe Croley – Resident

PUBLIC COMMENTS – NONE

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
 - For the month of April 2011 there were 3,962 total flight operations of which 2,214 were conducted under IFR procedures.
2. Projects: Paul Andres
 - Tree Obstruction Removal – The judge has ruled in favor of the County and Town regarding the approximately 1,400 trees identified as tree obstructions in the 34:1 slope on Runway 21. A ten day appeal period is currently in process. The church's attorneys have indicated they intend to appeal this decision further to the Appellate Court level. They have until Monday or Tuesday to file the appeal. Mr. Newman stated there are actually two periods; ten days to file a motion to have the original judge reconsider and then another thirty days to appeal to the South Carolina Court of Appeals. Mr. Andres stated it is his understanding that further appeals are pending and the Federal lawsuit has been filed, but not yet served.

There are approximately 1,000 trees on the North end off-airport property. Grant funding has been requested in the upcoming grant cycle for this project. The consultant is currently in the process of preparing the plans and specifications to put out for bid by the end of the month. Mr. Andres stated the County attorneys are looking at acquiring the necessary aviagation easements needed for the off-airport piece.

The South end off-airport tree removal design, 34:1 slope, is expected to commence shortly. This agenda item is scheduled to go before the Public Facilities Committee May 24th for their consideration and approval for contract award.

Grant funding has also been requested for the off-airport tree obstruction removal on the South end of the Airport in the upcoming grant cycle.

Mr. Andres stated the County attorneys are preparing a presentation on the tree obstruction issues to be presented to County Council on Monday May 23rd at 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Head Island Library on Beach City Road.

- ARFF Station – The punch list items have been completed. The Town has issued a Certificate of Compliance, but not a Certificate of Occupancy pending connection of the range hood to the fire alarm system. Additional firefighting equipment is being ordered and MIS is scheduled to finish installation of the telephone and data equipment in the building.
 - Runway Safety Area Drainage Improvements – This project is still on hold while we wait on the Town to issue a construction permit. The FAA continues to express their concerns regarding plantings in the runway safety area other than grass.
 - Master Plan – The consultant has supplied the additional data on the Airport Layout Plan drawings that the FAA had requested with the exception of the tree obstructions and has forwarded the documents for formal review. They are still working on this component and will send it to the FAA as quickly as they can. Originally, the FAA did not require the tree obstructions to be depicted on the drawing sets because they thought the tree obstructions would be gone by the time the Master Plan was submitted. The formal review is currently underway and we should have comments or approval within a few months as the FAA has indicated they will expedite their review. Funding for the Benefit Cost Analysis and Environmental Assessment associated with the Master Plan regarding Phase I runway expansion has been requested in the upcoming grant cycle.
 - Design Projects – The commercial terminal improvement design and the commercial apron joint repair project should resume shortly.
 - Passenger Facility Charge Program – The consultant is in the process of preparing the application.
3. Operations Report: Paul Andres for Chief Yeager
- For the month of April 2011 there were 4 medivacs and 1 medical emergency in the commercial terminal.
4. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: Paul Andres for Chief Yeager
- For the month of April 2011 there were 6 noise complaints from Port Royal Plantation. Four of these were due to Coast Guard helicopter operations and two were single engine general aviation over flights.
 - For the month of April 2011 the after hours traffic count was 124.

Mr. Dopp wanted to know if there is a protocol for responding to noise complaints. Mr. Andres stated that if the caller leaves a number, Chief Yeager will call them back.

BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips

- For the month of April 2011 there were a total of 2,015 operations. The total flow of fuel was 9,065 (4,884 gallons of AvGas and 4,181 gallons of jet fuel). There was a slight decrease in the number of operations compared to the same time period last year, but the fuel sales per gallon were up.

2. Projects: Paul Andres

- Tree Obstruction Removal – The FAA is still actively resolving the utility power pole issues. Mr. Andres stated SCE&G did lower, to some extent, the three distribution poles that are closest to the runway. There are ten more high voltage transmission lines further back that are still problematic to the 34:1 approach slope.

Over 600 tree obstructions remain in the 34:1 and 7:1 transition slope on the South end of the Airport that need to be addressed. Additional grant funding has been requested for the tree obstruction removal and the County attorneys are still working with the property owners regarding the on-going litigation.

- Master Plan – The consultant anticipates that he will be able to provide a complete draft report by the end of this month for review. At that time, a joint presentation to County and City Councils will be scheduled. As with the Hilton Head Island Master Plan, the information will be provided to the elected officials well in advance of the presentation to afford them the opportunity to review the documents, ask questions and receive responses from the consultant before the presentation. Mr. Buchanan stated that none of these presentations for the Hilton Head Island Airport involved the Airport Board because a specific request was made not to include the Board. He stated he is not aware of any request by the City or County for the Board not to be involved. Mr. Buchanan stated it would be helpful if some part of the Board were involved in the meetings. Mr. Andres stated this project has been ongoing for a number of years. He stated there is the possibility of providing the complete draft report to the Board for review which they could comment on at a future meeting, but this may delay the joint presentation. Mr. Andres stated the fundamental recommendations have not changed since the last presentation the consultant made to the Board. The consultant has reached their limit as far as the contracted number of public presentations. There is funding available for one more trip to Beaufort to make a presentation and beyond that they will request additional compensation. Mr. Buchanan stated members of the Board should be available to offer advice and answer questions for both the City and Council Councils. Mr. Andres concluded by stating that after the plans are approved by the Councils, they will then be submitted to the FAA for their review and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lady's Island Airport Operations: Graham Kerr

- Mr. Kerr stated the total fuel sales have increased this year over last in spite of the inclement weather.

2. Hilton Head Island Airport Operations: Will Dopp

- In comparing the first four months of 2011 to the same time period last year, aircraft movements were down 14%, but the passenger count for US Airways was up 14%.
- Signature Flight Support's revenues were \$1,350,000.00 which is an increase of 10% over the same time period last year. The County's share was approximately \$40,000.00. Fuel sales were up approximately 12.5% over the same time period last year. Fuel sales account for approximately 84% of their gross revenues. The gallons were down 6.5%. The total fuel sales for 2010 was approximately 750,000 gallons to general aviation aircraft only.
- Under the new contract with Republic Parking, the County is in the first month of the new contract for the second year. The County will not receive any funds until Republic Parking receives \$100,000.00 in revenues. In the month of April 2010 the revenues were \$11,000.00 compared to \$14,000.00 for April 2011.

(NOTE: The audio portion at the Hilton Head Island Library was restored).

- Councilman Caporale stated he wanted to comment on the tree removal issue now that the audio portion had been restored. He stated that County Attorney Lad Howell will give a briefing to County Council on May 23rd concerning the current requirements of the Hilton Head Island LMO. He stated there is an opportunity to trim the trees on Airport property and that all that is required is that Town Manager Steve Riley is notified, in writing, and to provide the current plan for trimming on Airport property. Councilman Caporale stated that according to Mr. Riley this is all that is required and that he (Mr. Riley) has verified this with the Town's attorneys. Councilman Caporale stated that he and Councilman Rodman have sent a very strong recommendation to Mr. Kubic and Mr. Newton that this is the way to proceed. He stated that the trimming needs to begin as soon as possible. Councilman Caporale stated he feels very strongly about this and that he and Councilman Rodman have put their opinions in writing. He stated that if they pursue the legal avenue no trees will be cut this year and probably not next year either. Councilman Caporale stated they have the Town's legal opinion that the current LMO allows us to trim the trees on Airport property which will perhaps kill more trees, but we need to get started. He stated that he understands clear cutting is more cost effective, but clear cutting is out of step with environmental values and the quality of life values of many Hilton Head Island people. He continued by stating the County may have to assume the additional cost involved in trimming if this is the negotiation point. Councilman Caporale concluded by stating that according to the legal opinion from the Town of Hilton Head, we have the right and the ability to start topping the trees now to get them out of the flight path.

Mr. Kerr wanted to know if this would have any impact on the FAA funding if we substitute trimming for tree removal. Mr. Andres stated the FAA has repeatedly said that they will fund this effort one time, whether removing, trimming or topping. Any future trimming or other maintenance is a local responsibility. Mr.

Dopp stated that the Town of Hilton Head Island has not contributed one cent to the Airport since its existence. He stated that he would hope that the Town will participate in some manner if this is not FAA funded. Mr. Buchanan concurred.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Aircraft Hangars (HXD): Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres spoke with FBO Manager, Mike Bennett, and was informed that the proposal to consider lowering the hangar management fees has made it to their corporate headquarters for review. They have expressed concern that this is not a good time to reduce their revenue streams in today's economic climate. Mr. Andres stated they have not provided an official response to date.
2. Through-the-Fence Agreement: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated the Exec Air attorney forwarded a letter to the County attorney on May 9th. Mr. Andres has contacted the consultant to arrange a dialogue and get his input. Mr. Andres stated they are still trying to resolve the perceived double credit for common area maintenance that is in the existing draft agreement. The current agreement runs through the end of 2013. Mr. Dopp wanted to know who owns and maintains the area at the end of Summit Drive. Mr. Andres stated he would have to check.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Aircraft Hangars (Rental Rates): Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres requested a discussion and recommendation to County Council regarding adjustments to the hangar rental rates at both the Hilton Head Island Airport and the Lady's Island Airport. He stated these rate changes could go into effect as early as July 1st at both Airports, but the recommendation is needed now in order to make its way through Committee for approval. Mr. Andres reminded the Board that last year, as in every year since the hangars were built on Hilton Head Island, the Council had requested the rates be raised 5% every year. The current rate for T-hangars is approximately \$380.00 per month at Hilton Head Island. The increase last year at the Lady's Island Airport was in the ten older T-hangars which went from \$210.00 per month up to \$252.00 per month which was the same rental rate for the newer T-hangars.

Referring to the Hilton Head Island Airport, Mr. Dopp stated that when the bonding was set for the hangars the County Council said there would be an annual 5% increase. Mr. Dopp stated there was a \$1.8 million fund to construct the hangars. This is a thirty year debt and to service this debt it has cost the Airport \$126,000.00 per year plus \$15,000.00 in maintenance for a total of \$142,000.00. Mr. Dopp stated the County currently collects \$123,000.00 of the \$142,000.00 so if there is a 5% increase we would be receiving \$129,000.00 which still leaves us \$13,000.00 short of the cost for debt service and maintenance. Mr. Dopp stated that Signature Flight's Support management agreement only refers to the primary term of the lease. He added that if Signature would reduce their management fees the County could extend the two 5 year options. Mr. Dopp stated that if the hangar rent is increased by 5% and if Signature Flight reduces their 25%

management fee to 12.5% the County will net \$150,000.00 annually which would more than cover the debt service and maintenance on the hangars. Mr. Buchanan noted that if the rent is raised by 5% we would still be competitive with surrounding airports and agreed with the need for Signature to lower their management fees. Mr. Dopp added that if Signature reduces their management fees then perhaps the hangar tenants could be given a break in future rent increases.

It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Wirth to recommend the hangar rental rates at the Hilton Head Island Airport be raised by 5%.

Mr. Newman stated that when the rate increases were originally set by the County Council it was not based on Signature Flight Support reducing their management fees. Councilman Caporale wanted to know how many people are on the waiting list to rent a hangar. Mr. Dopp stated there are approximately 23 firm people on the waiting list with additional names that have waived the opportunity to rent a hangar and have moved down on the list. Councilman Caporale stated he appreciated Mr. Buchanan's comparison of rents at other airports. He stated that on Hilton Head Island it can cost as much as \$400.00 to keep a small boat in the water. With no further discussion, Mr. Buchanan called for the vote.

The vote was: FOR – Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Newman, Mr. Law, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Gilbert. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Jorgensen. The motion passed.

Mr. Newman noted that the Lady's Island Airport does not have a built in structure to raise rent like there is at the Hilton Head Island Airport. He wanted to know if there was an economic reason for raising the hangar rent at the Lady's Island Airport. Mr. Buchanan stated there is a need and this would be discussed after a motion has been made.

It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Buchanan to recommend the hangar rental rates at the Lady's Island Airport be raised by 5%.

Mr. Phillips stated there are 34 hangars at the Lady's Island Airport with approximately 28 names on the waiting list, 10 of which are firm names. He stated they are incurring approximately \$10,000.00 per year in maintenance costs for the 34 hangars. Mr. Phillips stated the hangar rents were equalized so it currently stands at \$252.00 per month. He stated that as the hangars age the maintenance is going up and that electricity alone is costing them approximately \$325.00 per month just for the hangars which equates to about \$4,000.00 per year. Mr. Newman asked what the current revenue is. Mr. Phillips stated it is approximately \$103,000.00 per year. Mr. Buchanan stated that the hangars have 4 ballasts each and they have reduced these to 2 ballasts per hangar, but it is still costing approximately \$1,000.00 a year for ballast and light bulbs along with over \$300.00 a month to maintain the external lights. He added that they are constantly repairing the cables because of the age of the hangars which adds to the maintenance cost as well. Mr. Newman wanted to know if the Hilton Head Island Airport lease agreements are for the year. Mr. Andres stated the lease agreements are monthly at both Airports. Mr. Newman wanted to know if it is correct to

assume that maintenance costs will continue to rise with the older hangars that have the bi-fold doors at the Lady's Island Airport. Mr. Buchanan stated that was correct. Mr. Newman wanted to know if any thought had been given to changing the way the lease works so that the lessee would be responsible for basic maintenance of the hangars. Mr. Buchanan was concerned with allowing the lessee to handle this because they may not know what they are doing. Mr. Newman stated perhaps Mr. Orr, the Airport maintenance technician, could handle the work and then bill the lessee. Mr. Sanders wanted to know if there was any difference in maintenance costs between the new and old hangars. Mr. Phillips stated at this time there is not much difference, but in the next few years the older hangars are going to cost them money. He stated there are currently two hangars that need welded due to corrosion and some of the rollers on the doors are starting to fail. Mr. Kerr stated the newer hangars have electrical motors in the doors so the cables stretch which cost a lot of money to replace so it costs more to maintain them right now. He added that an extra \$12.00 per month on their rent is not going to make that much difference. Mr. Newman stated he just wanted to make sure the rate increase was needed. Mr. Phillips stated that last year they only equalized the rents and did not have a rent increase. He said they have not had a rate increase since 2009.

Mr. Dopp wanted to know if the anniversary date of the rent increase was October 1st or July 1st. Mr. Andres stated the October 1st increase was because County Council approval was not obtained until September. Mr. Dopp stated his records for the last 3 years show that October 1st is the anniversary date. Mr. Andres stated he would review the lease agreements, but he believed he was certain it was July 1st to correspond with the County's fiscal year. Mr. Phillips concurred with it being July 1st. Mr. Dopp stated that in regards to the Hilton Head Island hangar tenants, it seemed a bit unfair to have an increase within nine months instead of one year.

Mr. Buchanan called for the vote.

The vote was: FOR – Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Newman, Mr. Law, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Gilbert. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Jorgensen. The motion passed.

Mr. Andres wanted to know if it was acceptable to the Board to make the recommendation of approximately 5% in order to round off the figures. He stated this would make the rent \$265.00 a month at the Lady's Island Airport and \$400.00 a month at the Hilton Head Island Airport. There were no objections.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Sunset Date: Pete Buchanan and Will Dopp
 - Mr. Buchanan stated Mr. Dopp sent out an email to everyone which said that when the Airport has negotiated with someone to do something, such as build a hangar, the Board should insist that a schedule be included as part of the negotiations. He stated that by doing this the Board could include a penalty clause or a deadline so that the agreement becomes null and void if nothing has happened over a period of time. He added that the County's negotiating team

would need to add the legal terms. Mr. Dopp stated his recommendation does not include a schedule. He said he would like to modify his recommend to state that the County Council and County attorney should ensure that future agreements pertaining to the Airports have a sunset clause. Mr. Dopp stated an example would be with the Coin Toss agreement where it was approved 15 months ago and nothing has been signed, the space is tied up and the County does not receive revenue. Mr. Buchanan wanted to know if anyone on the Board objected to this recommendation and who would the Board need to talk to implement this. Mr. McFee stated that a timeline for any physical improvement the recommendation would need to go through Public Facilities to be incorporated into their policy.

Main Motion

It was moved by Mr. Dopp, seconded by Mr. Newman, that this Board recommend to Beaufort County Council and the County Attorney that regarding all future approvals, commitments, and/or tentative agreements affecting leases, contracts, or similar agreements at both County owned airports that such County Council approvals include a Date Certain, i.e., Sunset Clause, by which final and binding agreements must be executed by all parties thereto. In the absence of final agreements being executed by this Date Certain, all parties, both singularly and collectively would be released from the earlier approvals or commitments without penalty. The parties may mutually extend this Date Certain at any time, provided they do so in writing.

The vote was: FOR – Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Newman, Mr. Law, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Gilbert. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Jorgensen. The motion passed.

Mr. Kerr asked for the motion to be read in its entirety. Mr. Dopp read his recommendation which he had presented as a motion. Mr. Kerr said the wording was way beyond what should be stated in the recommendation and that it should be a simple recommendation to County Council stating that in matters of negotiations about Airport matters that the Board recommends that a schedule of events and a drop dead date should be included. Mr. Kerr asked if the motion could be amended. Mr. Newman stated it could be amended. Mr. Dopp stated he would withdraw his original motion.

Motion to Amend by Substitution

It was moved by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. Kerr that the Board recommends that when County Council approves any contract or agreement for either Airport there should be a certain deadline date which can be renewed or extended at the discretion of the County Council.

The vote was: FOR – Mr. Sanders, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Newman, Mr. Law, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Gilbert. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Jorgensen. The motion passed.

2. Proposal for Compromise: Pete Buchanan

- Mr. Buchanan referred to the Proposal for Compromise on the Hilton Head Island runway length and the position paper from the Palmetto Hall Plantation Owner's Association. Mr. Andres stated he has reviewed the document and shared his thoughts as follows:
 - a. What is being proposed does not meet FAA design criteria and as a result the FAA will not fund the construction;
 - b. It is inconsistent with the County and Town approved Master Plan for the Airport;
 - c. It jeopardizes FAA reimbursement of County and Town Master Plan costs;
 - d. It continues to limit passenger loads and restrict aircraft operations;
 - e. It is inconsistent with US Airways requests for a 5,400' runway to maximize their passenger load;
 - f. And, it limits the Airport's ability to attract other commercial carriers.

Mr. Andres stated this information has been presented to the Palmetto Hall people. He then read a letter from Mr. Gary Blevins, Manager of Flight Operations Piedmont Airlines, which was submitted as part of the Master Plan Update which was presented at the October 27th joint presentation to Town and County Councils (see Attachment A). Mr. Buchanan stated that the interview that Piedmont gave to WTLC indicated that the turboprops would not be around in the not so distant future. Mr. Newman stated he had read the Palmetto Hall proposal and that it only considers the Dash 8. Councilman Caporale stated he was not trying to be argumentative, but wanted to know where in the current Master Plan current models of regional jets are identified as being capable of servicing the Hilton Head Island Airport. Ms. Elder of Talbert and Bright stated that in Chapter 4 there is a section with a table that talks about the necessary runway lengths for all of the aircraft. Ms. Elder stated it tells in this chapter that it would limit the RJ's taking off fully loaded, but if the runway was 5,400' they would be able to operate. Councilman Caporale wanted to know if the 5,400' runway would be necessary for the regional jets and if they would not be able to service the Airport with a 5,000' runway. Ms. Elder stated they would be able to service the Airport, but they would be more limited at 5,000' than they would be with a 5,400' runway. Councilman Caporale wanted to know if this included the displaced threshold. Ms. Elder stated that the displaced threshold only comes into effect when they are landing, not when they are taking off, and it is taking off that is the issue. Mr. Buchanan stated that the point is that if we don't extend the runway we are at serious risk of losing commercial operations at the Hilton Head Island Airport. He also stated that if we lose commercial operations we also lose the control tower, the new ARFF building and the terminal. He added that a lot of the corporate jets that fly into Hilton Head for such events as the Heritage, would not be able to because their insurance providers would not let them fly in with a temporary tower or without fire fighting equipment. Mr. Buchanan stated that as far as he was concerned the Proposal for Compromise was not acceptable. Mr. Newman concurred and stated that all of the money spent on the infrastructure would be wasted. Mr. Kerr stated that he was speaking as a former Piedmont captain who has flown literally hundreds of night approaches into Hilton Head Island. He stated that right now the shortness of the runway, coupled with the

obstructions in the approach corridor and the lack of a glide slope, makes for a marginally safe approach at best. Mr. Kerr stated that unless a reasonable effort is made to lengthen the runway to 5,400' we will lose airline traffic because an RJ cannot be flown into the Hilton Head Airport unless it is "cleaned up". Mr. Dopp stated that as an Advisory Board, the members made a recommendation several months ago that they approved the Master Plan as presented by Talbert and Bright. He stated the Board should not make any further comment unless requested by County Council to revisit the issue based on the compromised proposal. Mr. Kerr, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Newman concurred. There was no further discussion.

3. Sea Breeze: Pete Buchanan

- Mr. Buchanan stated that he told Mr. Craig of Sea Breeze to send a proposal, but they only wanted to talk about what the Airport could give them. Mr. Buchanan stated Sea Breeze should not be offered anything until they tell us exactly what they want. Mr. Dopp stated this is why he is putting an emphasis on forcing Coin Toss to make a decision and sign a contract because they are tying up available space at the Airport that Sea Breeze could use. Mr. Buchanan stated that Sea Breeze needs to tell the County they want to be considered over Coin Toss. Mr. Dopp wanted to know then if Mr. Buchanan should respond to Sea Breeze to let them know the answers have been received, but we need a proposal. Mr. Buchanan stated they already know he received their answers and felt there was no need to contact them any further.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS - There were no public comments at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Airports Board will be held on Thursday, June 30, 2011 at 1:30 PM in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.

Piedmont Airlines



October 14, 2010

Judith Elder-Lincke
Talbert & Bright
2000 Park Street, Suite 101
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Ms Elder-Lincke

As you know, Piedmont Aviation's aircraft fleet is comprised of all turboprop aircraft, the deHavilland (Bombardier) Dash 8-100 and Q-300. We operate our company out of Salisbury Maryland where the main runway was recently extended from 5400' to 6400' at an elevation of 52'. Many of the airports we serve have runways of those lengths or greater.

Hilton Head Island is an important market for us that we want to continue to serve. The limitation on passengers and baggage reduces our ability to fully serve the market and results in a lesser level of service. We currently fly our aircraft between Hilton Head and Charlotte, and must limit the D8-100 to 31 passengers and the Q-300 cannot be utilized due to extreme obstruction clearance requirements. This impacts our company as well as your airport and community.

As I understand your Master plan Study for Hilton Head Island Airport, you have looked at the existing 4300' runway and extensions of that runway to 4600', 5000', and 5400'. It would be our recommendation that the runway be extended to 5400'. The 5400' runway at the sea level altitude, with adequate obstruction clearance, would permit us to operate our aircraft with full passenger and baggage loads to our Charlotte hub. Additional locations such as Washington, DC could also be served with few limitations.

Please contact me should you have any questions about our recommendation.

Best regards,



Gary Blevis
Manager of Flight Operations
Piedmont Airlines