

County Council of Beaufort County
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AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 18, 2008

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

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, December 18, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 18, 2008 agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the November 20, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ames recognized Harvey Ewing's accomplishments as a long time member of the Aviation Advisory Board, former Chairman of the Aviation Advisory Board, former Mayor of Hilton Head Island and his many contributions to Hilton Head Island and Beaufort County. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Ewing.

MEMBERS

David Ames-Chairman
Pete Buchanan – Vice Chairman
Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort
County Liaison
Councilman Ken Heitzke – Town of Hilton
Head Liaison
Leonard Law
Ross Sanders
Jared Newman
Dan Lynch

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anne Esposito

GUESTS

Councilman Stu Rodman
Councilman Paul Sommerville
Councilman Steve Baer
Jim Fisher – Resident
William Bronson – Resident
Richard Tritschler – Resident
Chris Eversman – Wilbur Smith Associates
John Morrissette – Resident
Joe Zimmerman – Resident
Leo Brennan – Resident
Will Dopp - Resident

STAFF

Paul Andres – Airport Director
Larry Yeager – Chief of Operations
Joel Phillips – Beaufort Co. Airport Supv.
Linda Wright – Administrative Assistant

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS & PUBLIC COMMENTS – Guests attending the meeting introduced themselves. There were no public comments at this time.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
 - For the month of November 2008 there were 2,909 total flight operations of which 1,775 were conducted under IFR procedures. There were 21 after hours flights included in the total.

2. Projects: Paul Andres
 - Tree Obstruction Removal – The off-airport survey data for the North End of the Airport is being finalized. This will be presented to the Town in order to quantify accurate cost estimates. The plant back is being re-bid. Those bids are due January 7th with hopes to present this to the Public Services Committee and County Council in January.
 - Emergency Generator – The County Administrator just approved a change order for landscaping and a new roof on the building that will house the generator which was required by the Town's Design Review Board. The FAA wants this project completed within 90 days.
 - ARFF Design – The public project review by the Planning Commission has been completed and the design work continues.
 - Design Projects – The terminal improvements, replacement of joint material on the commercial service ramp and drainage improvements on the North End of the Airport in the runway safety area design projects are all progressing.
 - Mr. Andres stated he received a tentative allocation letter from the FAA for the FY-09 A Program Funding for Hilton Head. He stated they intend to offer a grant for the runway safety area drainage improvement project on the North End of the Airport and to partially fund the tree obstruction removal and mitigation on the North End of the Airport. He stated the total amount of the grant offer is expected to be \$693,731.00. Councilman Caporale asked for a clarification of the partial funding for the tree obstructions. Mr. Andres stated the FAA is only allowed to fund 35% of entitlement monies with the A Program. He stated they intend to pursue the full amount through the B Program with discretionary funding later in the year.

3. Operations Report: Chief Yeager
 - There were seven medivacs for the month of November. There also was one in-flight emergency involving a single engine general aviation aircraft.

4. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: Chief Yeager
 - There were two noise complaints for the month of November. There were 10 after hours traffic counts for general aviation.

BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips
 - For the month of November the total fuel sales were 8,900 gallons (5,200 gallons of AvGas and 3,700 gallons of jet fuel) which is down approximately 26% (3,200 gallons) from the same time period last year. A discussion was then held as to whether the price of fuel should be adjusted to be comparable to surrounding airports.

- Mr. Phillips stated there had been a question raised concerning the AWOS frequency and the overlapping interference with Columbia. He stated he had spoken to Jamey Kempson at South Carolina Aeronautics and was informed the application for a new frequency was submitted to the FCC in July, but had not yet been approved.
 - Mr. Lynch wanted to know how the fuel prices are set. Mr. Andres stated they are based on the cost of fuel with the approved margin added on. An open discussion was then held on the gas prices.
2. Projects: Paul Andres
- Tree Obstruction Removal –Phase I of the tree obstruction removal project has been completed. The survey data has been collected for the Phase II tree obstructions. A change order is in progress to remove tree obstructions that are in the transition zone laterally to the Airport. Mr. Andres stated he hopes all tree obstructions will be removed from the Lady's Island Airport within one month.
 - Mosquito Control Hangar – Construction of the Mosquito Control hangar should be completed this month. It is anticipated the occupancy approval inspections will be done early in January.
 - Master Plan – The Advisory Committee for the Master Plan will meet again sometime in mid to late January. They are still waiting for the FAA response on the inventory and forecast chapters that were submitted.
 - Design Projects – The design projects for the runway overlay, runway end identifier lighting system on the South End and the rotating beacon and wind cone replacement projects are all underway. Mr. Andres stated he was told not to anticipate any A Program grant funding for the Lady's Island Airport. However, they are looking to fund through the B Program with discretionary money the runway overlay project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance: Pete Buchanan – No Report.
2. Lady's Island Facilities: Pete Buchanan – No Report.
3. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito – No Report.
4. External Affairs: No Report.
5. Community Relations Committee (CRC) Reports: No Reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Hilton Head Island Airport Master Plan Study: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated the Selection Committee will be meeting again on December 19th to discuss the scope and fees.
2. Signature Hangar Proposal: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated he is still waiting on information from Mr. Mike Bennett of Signature Flight Support.
3. AAB Charter Revisions: Paul Andres
 - The charter revisions were passed on third and final reading at County Council on

December 8th. These revisions should be implemented by the end of March 2009. An open discussion was then held on filling the open positions.

4. 5-Year AIP Plans: Paul Andres

- The Airport 5-Year Plan was approved by County Council on December 8th. Mr. Andres stated the appropriate applications will be forwarded to the FAA by the end of this month.

5. Builders First Source: Paul Andres

- Mr. Andres stated the FAA participates in land acquisition at the 95% level for their approved appraised value. He stated there is a sizeable difference between the current FAA appraised price of \$1,025,000 and the asking price of approximately \$2,000,000. Mr. Jared Newman suggested the property be considered for condemnation. Following an open discussion, Mr. Ames asked Mr. Newman to explore this possibility.

6. Co-Terminals: Paul Andres

- Mr. Andres stated US Airways does have co-terminal programs in several geographical areas. However, a co-terminal arrangement between the Hilton Head Airport and Savannah/Hilton Head Airport was declined by US Airways officials because of the difference in the market share between the two airports.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lowcountry Economic Network: David Ames

- Mr. Ames stated the Lowcountry Economic Network has written a paper on the importance of the Airport's infrastructure to the economic development of Beaufort County. Mr. Ames read one portion of the 13 page report that emphasized the importance of Beaufort County upgrading the infrastructure at both Airports and taking steps to increase the inventory of appropriately zoned land and facilities in order to be competitive with neighboring counties in South Carolina and Georgia. He stated he was given a courtesy copy prior to publication, but it will be made available to County Council and the public in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Councilman Rodman – Councilman Rodman expressed his opinion of fuel pricing. He stated if you deviate from pricing to the market you tend to lose money. Councilman Rodman also expressed his opinion on the Builders First Source property by stating County Council would have a difficult problem purchasing the property much above the appraised value.
2. Jim Morrisette – Mr. Morrisette wanted to know what the value of the Builders First Source property is to the Airport.

ADJOURMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:20 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee: Postponed until further notice.

Beaufort County Airport Community Relations Committee: Postponed until further notice.