

County Council of Beaufort County
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AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JANUARY 15, 2009

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, January 15, 2009 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 January 15, 2009 agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the December 18, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERS

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

GUESTS

Joe Croley – Resident
Bill Coleman – Resident
Chris Eversman – Wilbur Smith Associates

STAFF

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort
County Liaison

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 December 2008 there were 2,644 total flight operations of which 1,403 were conducted under IFR procedures. There were 19 after hours flights included in the total. There were 43,396 total flights for 2008 which is down approximately 4,400 from 2007 due to considerably less general aviation traffic.
2. Projects: Paul Andres

- Tree Obstruction Removal – There are still difficulties with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation in the bids. Mr. Anthony Cochran of the FAA informed Mr. Andres that this is being discussed at their level and they will get back with Mr. Andres. The North End tree survey data should be available next week. This information will be shared with the Town's staff to determine the costs associated with the tree obstruction removal project on the North End. Mr. Andres stated the Environmental Assessment has been reviewed by the FAA and the public comments period will be scheduled in the near future.
 - Emergency Generator – The Emergency Generator project is currently under construction and is anticipated to be complete within the next few months.
 - ARFF Design – This project is in progress and will be going for the final review before the Design Review Board next month.
 - Design Projects – The remaining design projects for the existing FY-08 FAA grants are in progress at various stages. Mr. Andres stated that because the Environmental Assessment is not complete, the FAA has decided to hold off any early A Program Funding and instead combine this with the B Program Funding for one grant offer this Spring.
3. Operations Report: Chief Yeager
- There were five medivacs for the month of December. There was one minor in-flight emergency involving a general aviation aircraft that landed without incident.
4. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: Chief Yeager
- There were no noise complaints for the month of December. There were 13 after hours traffic counts for December.

BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips
- For the month of December the total fuel sales were 5,735 gallons (3,616 gallons of AvGas and 2,119 gallons of jet fuel) which is down approximately 3,600 gallons from the same time period last year.
2. Projects: Paul Andres
- Tree Obstruction Removal – Phase I of the tree obstruction removal has been completed and they are currently into Phase II. Plant back bids are currently being analyzed and coordinated with the FAA.
 - Mosquito Control Hangar – The contractor is finishing a few remaining items. A final walk through has been scheduled for January 21st. If no problems arise they hope to have occupancy by the end of the month.
 - Master Plan – The FAA is discussing the Forecast Chapter with the consultants. The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for February 4th at the Lady's Island Airport.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance: Pete Buchanan

- Financial Performance – Mr. Buchanan stated a thorough reconciliation is underway between the Airport's records and the County's records. He hopes to have an accurate account of both Airports' finances by the end of next month.
 - Hangar Property Taxes – Mr. Buchanan commented on the new taxes to be placed on hangar tenants. He stated he would put this item on next month's agenda. An open discussion was then held concerning the new taxes.
 - Fuel Prices – Mr. Buchanan stated the Airport Supervisor is currently allowed to increase the margin of gas, but they should also be allowed to decrease the margin. He stated he will present a proposal to set the minimum margin at the next meeting. An open discussion was then held on the price margin for fuel sales.
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 has forwarded their recommendation to the County Administrator.
2. Signature Hangar Proposal: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated he is still waiting on information from Mr. Mike Bennett of Signature Flight Support.
3. Builders First Source: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated this property has been sold and he will be providing the Town with the FAA requirements which will then be conveyed to the new property owner. Mr. Ames stated later that the property had been sold for approximately \$2 million and will be used as a storage facility.
4. Airports Board Membership: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated that the Public Services Committee appointed a sub-committee headed by Councilman Steve Baer and assisted by Councilman Bill McBride to look over the applications submitted for vacancies on the Airports Board. He stated Councilman Baer and Councilman McBride will present their recommendations to the Public Services Committee at their February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Security Changes: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres informed the Board members that the Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration are pursuing initiatives that will result in increased security measures for general aviation and commercial airports. He stated one program involves any airport with large aircraft (12,500+ lbs.) and the second is for any individual with access to the Airport Operations Area at commercial airports.

2. Commercial Airport Data: Paul Andres

- Mr. Andres stated he received a report from an aviation consulting firm that tracks commercial airport data. He stated their report shows that for FY-2008 the passenger enplanement for the Hilton Head Island Airport was up 28% and the revenue was up 23.3% compared to the same time in 2007. He further stated that according to the report there were only two other airports in the entire Southeastern Region, St. Petersburg and Sanford, Florida, that did better.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Joe Croley – Mr. Croley asked if the downward trend in general aviation was just for Hilton Head or if this was nationwide. Mr. Andres stated it is a nationwide trend due to the economy.

ADJOURMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 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.