

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) 689-5400 - Fax: (843) 689-5411

AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF FEBRUARY 19, 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, February 19, 2009 in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Vice Chairman Pete Buchanan opened the meeting and noted there was a quorum even though there are still vacancies on the Board. He stated that since the Board only advises and makes recommendations a full Board was not required. Mr. Buchanan further stated that because there is currently a reduction in members any motion will include a specific count.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 19, 2009 agenda. The motion passed unanimously (5 in favor/0 opposed).

Prior to asking for a motion to accept the January 15, 2009 minutes, Mr. Buchanan noted that these minutes stated he would discuss the new hangar property taxes during the February meeting. Mr. Buchanan stated he would postpone this item until the March meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the January 15, 2009 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously (5 in favor/0 opposed).

MEMBERS

Pete Buchanan – Vice Chairman
Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort
County Liaison
Anne Esposito
Leonard Law
Ross Sanders
Jared Newman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Ken Heitzke – Town of Hilton
Head Liaison

GUESTS

Councilman Paul Sommerville
Councilman Stu Rodman
Joe Croley – Resident
Daniel Brownstein – Island Packet
John Morrissette – Resident
Will Dopp – Resident
Perry White – Resident
Leo Brennan – Resident
Richard Tritschler – Resident
Bill Coleman – Resident

STAFF

Paul Andres – Airport Director
Rob McFee – Public Services 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 January 2009 there were 2,249 total flight operations of which 1,280 were conducted under IFR procedures. Mr. Andres stated this is the lowest total number of operations in many years. He stated this is due to the normal seasonal drop in commercial service, the lack of Delta service which will resume in March and a significant decrease in general aviation activity at the Hilton Head Island Airport.

2. Projects: Paul Andres

- Tree Obstruction Removal – This project has been sent out for bid twice and there are still difficulties with the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation requirements by the FAA. The bidders of record are currently being contacted and they are being asked to submit their final and best offer for compliance with the tree mitigation plan back for both Airports. Mr. Andres stated the results are expected back by March 2nd and will then be taken to the Public Services Committee and County Council in March. The North End off airport tree survey data was forwarded to the Town of Hilton Head staff for their review and comments. The Town returned their preliminary comments and has asked for some additional information.
- Emergency Generator – The foundation for the new generator has been built. The contractor is still waiting for the delivery of the pre-engineered building that will house the generator.
- ARFF Design – This project received final approval from the Town's Design Review Board last week. The 60% design plans are being forwarded to the FAA for their review and approval.
- Design Projects – The runway safety area drainage improvements, the air carrier terminal improvements, and the apron joint material replacement design projects are currently underway at various stages.

Mr. Law asked Mr. Andres to explain Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Mr. Andres explained that this refers to small minority businesses that are appropriately registered with the South Carolina Department of Transportation. He stated the FAA establishes mandatory goals for the contractors to include these disadvantaged businesses in their projects.

Mr. Newman wanted to know if other airports are reporting a downturn in general aviation traffic. Mr. Andres stated this is a common trend across the country. He stated most airports are reporting 10% to 30% reduction in the volume of general aviation traffic.

3. Operations Report: Chief Yeager

- There were 9 medivacs for the month of January. 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 4 noise complaints for the month of January from the Port Royal

Plantation area. He stated this was primarily due to Coast Guard training exercises and one early morning corporate jet departure. There were no after hours traffic counts for January as the counters are currently out of service.

BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT

1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips

- For the month of January the total fuel sales were 5,250 gallons (3,421 gallons of AvGas and 1,829 gallons of jet fuel). The total operations were approximately 750 however their counters are also out of service at this time. Mr. Phillips stated he believes that approximately 34% of their drop in operations is due to the economy which is comparable to surrounding GA airports.

2. Projects: Paul Andres

- Tree Obstruction Removal – The initial tree obstruction removal has been completed. The consultant has generated a punch list and the contractor is addressing this. There have been some additional tree obstructions that have been identified and this will be dealt with in the near future. As with Hilton Head, they are obtaining final and best offers from the bidders regarding the tree mitigation plant back.
- Mosquito Control Hangar – The final inspection was conducted February 4th. There is an extensive punch list and the contractor is in the processes of addressing those issues. Once the significant issues are corrected, the new facility can be used.
- Master Plan – The Technical Advisory Committee met February 4th and reviewed the draft Facilities Chapter. The consultant is continuing to work on the study. The runway overlay, runway end identifier lighting system on the South End and the rotating beacon and wind cone replacement projects are all at various stages of design at this point.

Mr. Buchanan stated that the Mosquito Control Hangar is not under the authority of the Aviation Board and is not part of the Airport Administration. Mr. Andres concurred and added that Mosquito Control is a tenant on Airport property.

Mr. Newman stated that one of the lawsuits concerning the tree obstructions at the Beaufort County Airport has been settled and that the jury found in favor of the Airport.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Finance: Pete Buchanan

- Financial Performance – Mr. Buchanan stated it appears that on a cash flow basis, neither Airport is losing money.

2. Lady's Island Facilities: Pete Buchanan – No Report.

3. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito – No Report.

4. External Affairs: No Report.

Mr. Buchanan asked to have the Community Relations Committee (CRC) Reports removed from the agenda as these committees no longer exist.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Hilton Head Island Airport Master Plan Study: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated the Master Plan contract was presented to the Public Services Committee at their last meeting. They are moving that recommendation forward to County Council for approval at next week's meeting.
2. Signature Hangar Proposal: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres stated he is still waiting on information from Mr. Mike Bennett of Signature Flight Support.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fuel Price Proposal: Pete Buchanan
 - Mr. Buchanan read the fuel price proposal he had drafted which states the Supervisor of the Beaufort County Airport, with consent of the Director of Airports, can lower or raise fuel prices to meet competition. The proposal also states the lowest margin to which the fuel should be lowered should be 10% above cost and no upper limit need be established. Following an open discussion a motion was made.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the fuel price proposal as read and to pass this recommendation on to the Public Services Committee and County Council. The motion passed unanimously (5 in favor/0 opposed).

2. Preventative Measures for Bird Strikes: Paul Andres
 - Mr. Andres gave a presentation on the preventative measures taken to reduce the number of bird strikes and to deter wildlife at the Airports.

Ms. Esposito thanked Dave Ames for his 16 years as a member of the Aviation Advisory Board and serving as Chairman of the Board for 2 years. She also recognized Dan Lynch for his years of service to the Board. Ms. Esposito concluded by stating she was unsure as to whether her appointment to the Board would be renewed and therefore wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for allowing her to serve on the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

FUTURE MEETING

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 1:30 PM in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.