

AIRPORTS BOARD

February 21, 2013

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The Airports Board met on Thursday February 21, 2013 at 1:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Chairman Mazzei called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Airports Board Members: Chairman Joe Mazzei, Vice Chairman Graham Kerr, Will Dopp, Derek Gilbert, Ron Smetek, Carl Wedler, Pete Buchanan, Richard Wirth, Rich Sells, Ross Sanders, Councilman John McCann – Town of Hilton Head Island Liaison, and Councilman Stu Rodman – Beaufort County Liaison. (Absent: Mike Nash)

County Staff: Gary Kubic, County Administrator; Rob McFee, Director, Engineering and Infrastructure; Councilman William McBride; Joel Phillips, Beaufort County Airport Supervisor; Larry Yeager, Hilton Head Island Chief of Operations and Linda Wright, Administrative Assistant.

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright; Wil Hamp, Resident; Anne Esposito, Resident; Joe Zimmerman, Resident; Bob Gentzler, Resident.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Sells that the February 21, 2013 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Wedler, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Sells, and Mr. Sanders AGAINST – None. ABSENT – Mr. Nash.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Wirth that the January 17, 2013 minutes be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Wedler, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Wirth, Mr. Sells, and Mr. Sanders AGAINST – None. ABSENT – Mr. Nash.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Due to technical difficulties there was no communication with the guests at the Hilton Head Island Library. There were no introductions or comments from the guests in Council Chambers.

LADY'S ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Mr. Phillips reported on the fuel sales and operations for the Lady's Island Airport for January.

Mr. McFee stated the determination for the 16 power poles has been sent to SCE&G and they have been instructed by the FAA to mark and light these poles.

Mr. McFee stated the Lady's Island Master Plan was tabled November 5th and that appropriate verbiage needs to be added. Councilman McBride stated that while it is not everyone's view, Council does not feel this project will happen and they do not need to be spending time and effort trying to make it happen. Mr. Buchanan stated they need the Airport Layout Plan which is part of the Master Plan in order to move forward. Councilman McBride stated he is optimistic that it will be put back on the table. Mr. McFee hopes to have something to report by the next Board meeting.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Chief Yeager gave the tower and operations reports as well as the noise complaints for December and January.

Mr. Kubic expressed his concern over the analogy used by the Town of Hilton Head to show that they believe their numbers and growth into the future has essentially flat lined. He stated this analogy was used as a reason not to pursue the flyover. He stated that because of this the County will review the process of all of the grants and local matches and that the administration, with County Council approval, will request that the Town of Hilton Head once again endorse the Hilton Head Island Airport. Mr. Kubic stated that if they do not, perhaps the County will have to re-evaluate their position at the Airport. He stated that Councilman Rodman had suggested they engage in some engineering about the possibility of extending the runway within the property boundaries of the Airport. Mr. Kubic stated he sent an email today to the Town Council, Mr. Mazzei, County Council and to the POA's around the Airport saying that without a joint resolution of the Town and County together instructing his staff to do the engineering it will not be done. He stated that if they do this it will be with full disclosure and full involvement of all the property associations surrounding the Airport. Mr. Kubic informed the Board that from now on every signature that he has on any grant or engineering for the Airport will have the concurrence of the Town and County Councils. He stated he will not go forward with an endorsement that is withdrawn when it gets a little tough in the Chambers.

Mr. Smetek asked Mr. Kubic if they would be soliciting community participation or feedback in the dialogue that is undertaken so that they don't discover later that there are errors in figures or disagreements with the numbers. Mr. Kubic stated there are limits with the joint resolution so he is pursuing those exercises within those limits. He stated that anything that comes in that is not included in the original joint resolution in conjunction with the Master Plan will have full community review.

Mr. Mazzei stated the Master Plan has been approved by joint resolution including a limitation up to 5,000'. He asked Mr. Kubic if he was saying that before anything is undertaken beyond 5,000' that everyone must be in agreement. Mr. Kubic stated this was correct, but he had the same endorsement on the flyover by the Town which was then reversed by the Town Tuesday night. Mr. Kubic stated the Board needs to step up to the plate if they believe that the Airport is worth the \$10 million investment. Mr. Kubic stated that if the Town does not believe in the growth of their own community then the County is not going to waste the money on the Hilton Head Airport.

Mr. McFee continued with the update of the projects at the Hilton Head Island Airport. Mr. Smetek asked for the status of the benefit cost analysis. Ms. Elder stated that the benefit cost analysis is tied in with the environmental assessment so the archeological portion must be completed before they can move forward. Ms. Elder stated that when it is put out for public comment it will be advertised that the documents are available at the libraries and the Airport. Ms. Elder stated there will be a 45 day review period. Mr. Smetek wanted to know if Ms. Elder and her team would entertain any preliminary discussions. Ms. Elder stated she cannot do anything until the FAA tells her she can "put it on the streets".

Mr. Dopp asked for an update on the changes of the LMO. Mr. McFee stated a meeting has been set up with the Town, but he did not know when that would be.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lady's Island Airport Operations –Pete Buchanan

Mr. Buchanan stated there has been considerable activity in Charlotte over control of the airport either by the Town or by a potential airport authority. He stated he would like for the Board to think about the potential of making both Airports an airport authority. Mr. Mazzei stated that the Finance Committee is aware of this issue. Mr. Wedler stated he would like to receive information on what an airport authority actually encompasses. Mr. Mazzei did not think the Board should spend any time on this matter unless directed to do so by either the Finance Committee or County Council.

2. Hilton Head Island Airport Operations – Will Dopp

Mr. Dopp stated the movements are down by 10% and passenger count is down by 6%. He stated Signature Flight Support's revenue was up by 40%. He stated Signature will be proceeding with a major renovation of their building following the Heritage Golf Tournament. Mr. Dopp stated Republic Parking's revenues are down.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Mr. Massei stated that while there was no New Business slated, he wanted to inform the Board that he did attend the Finance Committee meeting and presented the results of Ms. Holland's review of the economic analysis and possible scenarios. Mr. Smetek stated he would not like County Council to make any decisions based on only one of many analyses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

There were no comments at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Airports Board meeting will be Thursday March 21, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:45PM