

AIRPORTS BOARD

May 16, 2013

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The Airports Board met on Thursday May 16, 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, Ross Sanders, Ron Smetek, Carl Wedler, Pete Buchanan, Al Spain, Councilman John McCann – Town of Hilton Head Island Liaison, and Councilman Stu Rodman – Beaufort County Liaison. (Absent: Derek Gilbert, Mike Nash, Rich Sells).

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

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright; Jim Webb, Resident; Leo Brennan, Resident; and Joe Zimmerman, Resident.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Buchanan that the May 16, 2013 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Wedler, Mr. Sanders, and Mr. Buchanan. AGAINST – None. ABSENT – Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Nash and Mr. Sells.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

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

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

LADY'S ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Mr. Phillips reported on the fuel sales and operations for the Lady's Island Airport for March and April. Mr. Phillips asked for a 5% across-the-board increase in the hangar rental rates to help cover some extra expenses they have encountered. Mr. Phillips stated they did equalize the rental rate in 2011, but they had not increased the rate since 2010.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. Kerr that the hangar rental rates at the Lady's Island Airport be increased by 5%. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Wedler, Mr. Sanders, and Mr. Buchanan. AGAINST – None. ABSENT – Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Nash and Mr. Sells.

Mr. McFee stated SCE&G has until March 17, 2014 to light or lower the utility poles. He stated that 4 aviation easements cases were settled leaving 3 cases to go to litigation sometime in July. Mr. McFee stated questions regarding the Master Plan have come in and they are going through the process of answering them. He hopes County Council will discuss this in the next month or two.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Chief Yeager gave the tower and operations reports as well as the noise complaints for March and April.

Mr. McFee gave an update of the obstruction removal process and aviation easements. Twenty-four out of 25 easements have been obtained. The tentative start date is unknown for the South end off airport portion due to the appeals. Mr. McFee stated a report concerning the archaeology data recovery is expected by the end of September. Mr. McFee stated the Hilton Head Design Review Board reviewed the Phase I Commercial Terminal Improvements and they were pleased.

Mr. Mazzei asked if a discussion ever took place with the Town about the LMO restrictions on completing projects. Mr. McFee stated they have provided the Town with specific concerns, but did not know the current status of this request.

Mr. Smetek stated that some of the results of the archaeological study could have huge historical significance to the Town of Hilton Head Island which could have an impact on the extension of the runway. Mr. Mazzei asked Ms. Elder if a report has been published on this and she stated it has not.

Mr. Dopp stated the Airports Board has not seen the plans for the commercial terminal renovations. Mr. McFee stated this will be presented at the next meeting.

Councilman Rodman wanted to know when the design activities would start in relationship to finishing the environmental study. Ms. Elder stated that once they are finished with the public hearing, the final environmental assessment, have received FAA approval and given us a Record of Decision or Finding of No Significant Impact the design work will start. She hopes they go to hearing in November or December, but this depends on receiving the Phase III Archaeological Data Report which is due at the end of September.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lady's Island Airport Operations –Pete Buchanan

Mr. Buchanan stated the Lady's Island Airport had repairs to the septic system. He stated the hangar rents pays for these types of items.

Mr. Kerr wanted to know if anyone has gone to the County to inquire as to what will become of the vacated fire station. Mr. McFee said there have been a number of things suggested, but no solid decision has been made at this time.

2. Hilton Head Island Airport Operations – Will Dopp

Mr. Dopp stated the movements for the first four months of this year compared to last year are down 14% and passenger count is down by 8%. He stated the County received \$82,000 from Signature Flight Support versus \$77,000 for the same time period last year. He stated the fuel revenues are down 9%. Mr. Dopp stated the Republic Parking contract year ended March 31st. Last year \$168,000 in revenue came to the County versus \$165,000 this year. Mr. Dopp stated a hangar in Exec Air was advertised in the Island Packet and wanted to know if the County has been contacted by anyone since the County has first right of refusal according to the new agreement. Mr. Dopp stated the control tower will remain until September 30th.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers – Joe Mazzei

Motion: Mr. Kerr nominated Mr. Buchanan for Chairman of the Airports Board, seconded by Mr. Wedler. There were no other nominations. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Wedler, and Mr. Sanders. AGAINST – None. ABSTAINED – Mr. Buchanan. ABSENT – Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Nash and Mr. Sells.

Motion: Mr. Dopp nominated Mr. Mazzei for Vice Chairman of the Airports Board, seconded by Mr. Buchanan. There were no other nominations. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Wedler, and Mr. Sanders.. AGAINST – None. ABSTAINED – Mr. Mazzei. ABSENT – Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Nash and Mr. Sells.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

Mr. Dopp asked for an update in the search for a new Airports Director. Mr. Kubic stated he had phone interviews with the 3 candidates that were shortlisted. He stated he notified them that he wants to wait until the end of May before a decision is made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Although there were no public comments the following items were brought up for discussion by the Board:

1. Councilman Rodman stated that since the Airports are an enterprise there has been interest to look at a separate bond for the Airports' funding requirements. He stated the Airports cannot have a line of credit, but they could potentially have a bond. Councilman Rodman stated it would be helpful if the Board would look at this at some point and report back to the Finance Committee.
2. Councilman Rodman, Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Kubic further discussed the continuation of the control tower after September.
3. Mr. Dopp wanted to know when they would receive a financial statement as they had not received one since December. Mr. Mazzei stated Ms. Holland has been involved in the budgets. Councilman Rodman stated Ms. Holland will have an additional workload due to Mr. Starkey's departure.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Airports Board meeting will be Thursday June 20, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:30 p.m.