

AIRPORTS BOARD

January 16, 2014

The electronic and print media were duly notified in
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Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit
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The Airports Board met on Thursday January 16, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Airports Board Members: Chairman Pete Buchanan, Will Dopp, Derek Gilbert, Rich Sells, Ron Smetek, Dan Ahern, Anne Esposito, Carl Wedler, Graham Kerr, Ross Sanders and Councilman Stu Rodman, Beaufort County Liaison (Absent: Councilman John McCann, Town of Hilton Head Island Liaison and Al Spain)

County Staff: Jon Rembold, Airports Director; Councilman Rick Caporale; Councilman William McBride; Joel Phillips, Beaufort County Airport Supervisor; and Larry Yeager, Chief of Operations.

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright; Dan Burley, Island Packet; Claude Dinkins, Resident; Tony Petrucci, Resident; Derek Richardson, Resident; Jim Webb, Resident; Bob Gentzler, Resident; and Steve Cucina, Signature Flight Support.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Dopp, seconded by Mr. Gilbert that the January 16, 2014 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Sells, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Esposito and Mr. Wedler. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Mr. Spain. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Ahern, seconded by Mr. Gilbert that the November 21, 2013 minutes be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Sells, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, Ms. Esposito and Mr. Wedler. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Mr. Spain. MOTION PASSED.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Buchanan stated the Airports contribute to the health and wealth of the County and while it may not appear so on paper, they are improving their financial status.

LADY'S ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Mr. Phillips reported on the fuel sales and operations for the Lady's Island Airport for November and December. He stated the lower numbers were due largely to the weather. Mr. Ahern asked if touch and go landings were counted in the total operations. Mr. Phillips stated they are not recorded at the Lady's Island Airport, but they are at the Hilton Head Island Airport. He stated that Lady's Island does not have the manpower to handle this and that it is not as critical for their Airport as it is for Hilton Head. Mr. Dopp added that the touch and go landings at the Hilton Head Island Airport are important to maintaining the control tower.

Mr. Rembold updated the Board on the ongoing projects at the Lady's Island Airport. He stated they have a projected February court date for the tree obstructions. He stated they received very minor comments from the state on the Master Plan. Mr. Rembold said they are considering a public/private development opportunity at the Lady's Island Airport by building on the airspace engineering program at Battery Creek High School.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

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

Mr. Rembold updated the Board on the ongoing projects at the Hilton Head Island Airport. He stated bids for the On-Airport Tree Mitigation project were certified and they will be going through Public Facilities next Tuesday. He also stated the bids for the Terminal Renovations Phase I project are still being evaluated. Mr. Rembold said the Environmental Assessment is close to completion then it will go to the FAA for their review and approval. He stated the archeological data recovery exhibit will be opening two weeks from today at the Coastal Discovery Museum at Honey Horn. He further stated that land acquisition is underway for correcting the taxiways. Mr. Dopp stated he was concerned that property owners on Dillon Road have not been notified when their property will be impacted. Ms. Elder said they will be notified when we enter into a contract with the appraiser. She stated we follow the Uniform Relocation Act under federal law.

Mr. Rembold informed the Board that a video was made of the Airport from the air and on the ground. He stated it should be ready for viewing next month.

Mr. Smetek wanted to know if there was an update on when a draft or preliminary information for the Benefit Cost Analysis would be available for community review and comments. Mr. Rembold said he did not know, but would find out when it would be available. Mr. Smetek also wanted to know the timeline for answering the comments received on the Categorical Exclusions. Mr. Rembold said there was no timeline, but it should only take a couple of weeks.

Mr. Gilbert asked for an update on the up zoning on the property at Beach City Road. Mr. Rembold stated it was voted down by the Hilton Head Island Town Council.

Mr. Rembold stated that the contract with Signature Flight Support has been rewritten to include all of the amendments into the body of the contract.

Mr. Rembold stated the Lady's Island Airport Air Day will be April 6th and the one at Hilton Head Island Airport will be April 26th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lady's Island Airport Operations – Graham Kerr – No report.
2. Hilton Head Island Airport Operations – Will Dopp

Mr. Dopp stated the movements were down 10% in 2013 as compared to 2012. He stated the passenger count has gradually declined, but noted that the airlines have cut their flights this winter to just 3 or 4 flights on some days. He stated Signature Flight Support's revenues in 2013 were down \$200,000.00 compared to 2012, but he County's share for the year went up.

Mr. Dopp stated the 5% hangar rent increase was approved, but has not yet been implemented.

3. Subcommittee/Air Carrier Service Improvements at Hilton Head Island Airport – Al Spain

Mr. Spain was absent from the meeting, but he had Ms. Esposito read his report. The report stated that Mr. Spain had informed Mr. Rembold of the discussions and ideas of the subcommittee and that they would support Mr. Rembold needs to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

There were no comments from the public.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Airports Board meeting will be Thursday February 20, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:30 PM