

# AIRPORTS BOARD

February 20, 2014

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The Airports Board met on Thursday February 20, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. County Attorney Josh Gruber called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ATTENDANCE**

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

County Staff: Jon Rembold, Airports Director; Josh Gruber, County Attorney; Councilman William McBride; Joel Phillips, Beaufort County Airport Supervisor; Larry Yeager, Chief of Operations; and Linda Wright, Administrative Assistant.

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright; Pete Buchanan, Resident; Joe Croley, Resident; Jim Webb, Resident; Joe Zimmerman, Resident; and Bob Richardson, Resident.

## **ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Josh Gruber, County Attorney, called for nominations for a Temporary Chairman of the Airports Board.

**Nomination(s):** Mr. Sells nominated Mr. Kerr for Temporary Chairman of the Airports Board. Mr. Wedler nominated Mr. Spain for Temporary Chairman of the Airports Board. Mr. Kerr received 7 votes. Mr. Spain received 3 votes. Mr. Kerr received the majority.

Temporary Chairman, Mr. Kerr, asked for nominations for a Temporary Vice Chairman of the Airports Board.

**Nomination(s):** Mr. Sells nominated Mr. Spain for Temporary Vice Chairman of the Airports Board. There were no other nominations. Mr. Spain received 10 votes.

## **MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Dopp, seconded by Mr. Smetek that the February 20, 2014 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Dopp, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Ahern, Mr.

Sells, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Viventi, Mr. Spain and Mr. Wedler. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Ms. Esposito. MOTION PASSED.

### **MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES**

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

### **GUEST INTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Prior to the introduction of guests, Mr. Kerr thanked former Airports Board Chairman, Pete Buchanan, for his years of service. Mr. Buchanan stated he appreciated the kind words and thanked the Board for their support during his time on the Board.

There were no further comments from the public.

### **LADY'S ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

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

Mr. Rembold updated the Board on the ongoing projects at the Lady's Island Airport. He stated they have a March court date for the tree obstructions. He stated the final comments have been made on the Master Plan and is currently under review by the FAA. Mr. Rembold said he has asked Talbert, Bright and Ellington to prepare a scope of work and fee for the parallel taxiway and runway safety areas for review.

### **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

Chief Yeager gave the tower and operations reports as well as the noise complaints for January. Chief Yeager commended 2 Senior ARFF officers, Esau Brown and David Lilly, for their completion of over 150 online training scenarios and exams with the Airport Safety and Training Institute. He stated they received a plaque of recognition. Mr. Kerr asked Chief Yeager to extend the Board's thanks for a job well done.

Mr. Rembold commended the ARFF officers for taking the initiative to continue training on their own. Mr. Rembold stated the On-Airport Tree Mitigation is underway. Mr. Smetek asked what the project entails. Mr. Rembold stated it is a replanting of vegetation in accordance with the LMO. Mr. Rembold stated the tree survey for the obstruction removal is almost finished and the design work is underway. Mr. Smetek asked if the Board would have the opportunity to look at the work to be done before awarding a contract. Mr. Rembold stated the Board would see it first. Mr. Smetek also asked for copies of the 20/1 and 30/1 slopes. Mr. Rembold stated the terminal renovations have been put on hold due to funding issues. He stated all of the bids were high so they will have to look at the scope of work again and also look at other funding sources. Mr. Rembold stated that the lighted sign replacement should take place later in the summer and that the contractor is holding the price. He continued by stating that the Environmental Assessment for the runway extension is still under review by the FAA. He stated once we receive it back

they will have a chance to look at it and then move it to public hearing which should probably be in April. Mr. Rembold reminded everyone of the Mitchelville exhibit at the Coastal Discovery Museum and stated the traveling exhibit should arrive shortly and will be available for use by certain groups. Mr. Rembold stated the appraisals for the land acquisition are under review. He also stated that the geotechnical investigation and survey are underway for the taxiway project.

Mr. Kerr introduced new Board member Gregory Viventi. Mr. Viventi gave a brief summary of his background and qualifications.

### **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. Rembold stated the FY-15 budget should be within 5% to 10% of the FY-14 budget. He stated the Board will have the opportunity to look at the budget before being submitted to the County.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Dopp stated the numbers were down for January which was due, in part, to the weather. He stated Signature Flight Support's revenues and the County's share was down by approximately 30%. He stated the ground rent for Signature Flight went up by 0.5% and they are now paying 7% on the retail fuel sales. Mr. Dopp stated all of the hangars are now rented and the tenants have been advised of the 5% increase in hangar rent.

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

Mr. Spain stated that the subcommittee was formed in the absence of an Airport Director. He stated since we now have an Airport Director and he has been briefed on the subcommittee meetings he would like for the formal status of the subcommittee to stand down.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Gilbert that the subcommittee for studying air carrier service improvements formally stand down. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Dopp, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Sells, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Viventi, Mr. Spain and Mr. Wedler. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Ms. Esposito. MOTION PASSED.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Lady's Island Airport**

Mr. Rembold stated the Lady's Island/St. Helena Fire Station will be vacated in the next few months. He stated this building is on the Lady's Island Airport property and therefore can be used by the Airport. He said it may be used for an aerospace and aviation based program for high school students. Mr. Rembold stated they are also looking at commercial opportunities at the Airport. He stated they have had a few public relation opportunities at Lady's Island Airport by having students and cub scouts tour the airport as well a having the opportunity to go flying with Mr. Ahern and GA Pilot, Dru Anderson.

## Hilton Head Island Airport

Mr. Rembold showed a picture of a piece of sculpture called "Sail" that was donated to the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. He stated it is currently located at an interior design store on Hilton Head Island, but the Community Foundation had asked him if the Airport would be interested in displaying the artwork in the terminal. Mr. Rembold and the County Attorney will be checking to make sure all the proper paperwork is in place and what our liability would be if the piece is donated.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Smetek, seconded by Mr. Sells that the Hilton Head Island Airport accepts a piece of sculpture called "Sail" from the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Dopp, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Ahern, Mr. Sells, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Viventi, Mr. Spain and Mr. Wedler. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Ms. Esposito. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Rembold stated he, members of staff, Judy Elder, Carl Ellington and Andy Shook met with representatives of the FAA and the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission on January 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss upcoming projects, master plans, and CIP projects. He stated both agencies were in favor of the projects.

Mr. Rembold stated he attended the South Carolina Aviation Association annual conference at Isle of Palms. He stated he had the opportunity to have individual conversations with members of both FAA and the Aeronautics Commission regarding the projects.

Mr. Smetek wanted to know if minutes were available for the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Rembold stated he would share his notes.

Mr. Rembold stated he continues to hear that there are people interested in either renting or building hangars.

Mr. Rembold reminded the Board about the Air Days. The Air Day for Lady's Island Airport will be April 5<sup>th</sup> and Hilton Head Island Airport's will be April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Kerr asked about the "dead" airplanes at Lady's Island. He said one belongs to Mosquito Control and the other is privately owned. Mr. Rembold said the aircraft for Mosquito Control was bought for parts. He said they are working on a solution for both aircrafts and would give more information at the next meeting.

Mr. Rembold then played an informational video for the Board on the Hilton Head Island Airport. He stated that some of the County staff have already viewed the video and hopes to get it out to the public.

**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 March 20, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 2:30 PM