

AIRPORTS BOARD

September 18, 2014

The electronic and print media were duly notified in
Accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit
http://beaufort.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

The Airports Board met on Thursday September 18, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers of the Hilton Head Island Town Hall. Chairman Rich Sells called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Airports Board Members: Rich Sells, Al Spain, Will Dopp, Ron Smetek, Alan Rae, Gregory Viventi, Graham Kerr, Anne Esposito, and Carl Wedler. (Absent: Dan Ahern, Derek Gilbert and Beaufort County Liaison Councilman Stu Rodman).

County Staff: Jon Rembold, Airports Director; Councilman Rick Caporale; Councilman Steven Fobes; and Linda Wright, Administrative Assistant.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Viventi, seconded by Ms. Esposito that the September 18, 2014 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, Al Spain, Alan Rae, Will Dopp, Ron Smetek, Gregory Viventi, Graham Kerr, Carl Wedler, and Anne Esposito. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Dan Ahern and Derek Gilbert. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Dopp, seconded by Mr. Viventi that the August 21, 2014 minutes be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, Al Spain, Alan Rae, Will Dopp, Ron Smetek, Gregory Viventi, Graham Kerr, Carl Wedler, and Anne Esposito. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Dan Ahern and Derek Gilbert. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bob Richardson, resident, stated the Hilton Head Island Land Trust for Ft. Howell had received a letter from the County Attorney stating that after repeated attempts to contact them the County would begin avigation condemnation proceedings. Mr. Richardson stated the Land Trust had not received any prior correspondence and therefore informed the County Attorney of this and that they needed more specific information.

Ms. Linda Hyslop, Hilton Head Island Land Trust President, concurred with Mr. Richardson's comments and gave a brief history of the fort and how the tree canopy protects it. She then distributed the County Attorney's letter and her letter of response.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Smetek, seconded by Mr. Kerr that the correspondence between the Beaufort County Attorney and the Hilton Head Island Land Trust concerning avigation condemnation be made part of the Airports Board Minutes. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, Al Spain, Alan Rae, Will Dopp, Ron Smetek, Gregory Viventi, Graham Kerr, Carl Wedler, and Anne Esposito. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Dan Ahern and Derek Gilbert. MOTION PASSED.

LADY'S ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Mr. Rembold reported on the fuel sales and operations for the Lady's Island Airport for August.

Mr. Rembold stated an October 13th court date has been set for the avigation easements. He stated there are no changes in any of the projects.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Mr. Rembold gave the tower and operations reports as well as the noise complaints for August.

Mr. Rembold stated we will be able to complete the Runway 21 On-Airport Tree Mitigation project. He said the property owners have received letters concerning the avigation condemnation for the Runway 03/21 Off-Airport Obstruction Removal project. Some of the property owners have responded so there will only be a few that will have to go through condemnation. Mr. Rembold stated there was a preconstruction meeting on August 22nd for the Runway Lighted Sign Replacement project. He stated this project should begin mid-October and finish by the end of the year. He stated there is no change on the Runway 03/21 Extension Environmental Assessment project. An updated draft version of the educational website for the Phase III Archeology Data Recovery and Public Outreach project was received this week. The video, *Finding Freedom's Home*, will be entered into the Arkhaios Film Festival on October 25th. Mr. Rembold stated the exhibit currently at the Coastal Discovery Museum may be moved to Columbia. He stated negotiations are still ongoing for the Runway 03 land acquisitions and the Taxiway A relocation and Taxiway F realignment projects are moving forward. Notice letters were sent and appraisals are underway for the Runway 21 land acquisitions. Mr. Rembold stated the work authorization approval for the Master Drainage Plan and the Runway 03 Tree Removal EA project was approved at the Finance Committee meeting on September 15th and is moving forward to the County Council meeting on September 22nd. The tree removal between the control tower and the GA ramp was approved by Finance Committee and the County Administrator has signed off on it.

In reference to the land trust discussion earlier in the meeting, Mr. Smetek asked Mr. Rembold to have Mr. Gruber to provide the following:

- Reconfirm that the tree trimming to be done on land trust property is based on the existing 4,300' runway and not on the 5,000' or 5,400' runway;
- Identify the FAA documents that spell out which slopes and which trapezoidal shapes are applicable to the work to be done on the land trust property; and
- To identify what Town LMO directives or guidance impacts what is done, or not done, with regard to the cutting or trimming of trees on the land trust property.

Mr. Sells asked if this request was in the form of a motion and Mr. Smetek stated he would make a motion.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Smetek, seconded by Mr. Dopp that Mr. Rembold request the County Attorney, Mr. Gruber reconfirm that the tree trimming to be done on land trust property is based on the existing 4,300' runway and not on the 5,000' or 5,400' runway; identify the FAA documents that spell out which slopes and which trapezoidal shapes are applicable to the work to be done on the land trust property; and to identify what Town LMO directives or guidance impacts what is done, or not done, with regard to the cutting or trimming of trees on the land trust property.

Mr. Kerr stated that rather than have the Board direct the County Attorney on what information he is to provide, it would be better for the interested parties to send a letter and ask the attorney for the additional information. Mr. Smetek stated it is well within the purview of the Board to request this type of documentation be provided relative to airport operations, property and modifications. He stated it is the Board's responsibility to provide this guidance to the County Attorney, if necessary, and to advise the County Council that there appears to be some major discrepancies between what a County employee is doing and saying he is doing, and what the community is seeing. Mr. Wedler stated it could be a timing issue and that Mr. Gruber is in the process of responding to the land trust's request at this time. Mr. Smetek stated the County Attorney asserted that he sent letters to the land trust months ago and the land trust states they have never received these letters.

When the vote was called: FOR – Mr. Smetek. AGAINST – Rich Sells, Al Spain, Alan Rae, Will Dopp, Gregory Viventi, Graham Kerr, Carl Wedler, and Anne Esposito. ABSENT: Dan Ahern and Derek Gilbert. MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Dopp asked when the property owners on Beach City Road would receive their appraisals. Mr. Rembold stated this process will start any day.

Mr. Wedler asked when the terminal renovations will start at the Lady's Island Airport and if the parking lot would be addressed at the same time. Mr. Rembold stated the grant was for renovating the restrooms and should be finished in November. He stated the parking lot is part of the infrastructure project with the ALP so it is not scheduled at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rembold stated he is in negotiations with Republic Parking to remove all of the mechanical systems and develop a kiosk based prepay system inside the terminal. He stated there would also be a mobile application for passengers to pay for more time before they return to the Airport. He said this may involve an extension of their contract.

Mr. Rembold explained the work authorization process.

Mr. Rembold stated the Part 139 inspection results were very good. He said there were a few items to be addressed, but overall everything went well.

Mr. Rembold stated there will be some upcoming RFP's coming out. These will be for: the furniture in the hold room for the passengers; a new café/restaurant/bar; and for exterior improvements on the steelwork, walls and gutters on the public facing side of the terminal.

Mr. Rembold recognized Public Works for the work they do at the Airport especially prior to the Part 139 inspection. He also expressed his appreciation to Chief Yeager for his quick response to a nose gear collapse on the runway.

Mr. Rembold stated we received a letter of appreciation from the South Carolina Aviation Association for our support and participation during aviation week.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smetek stated that in reference to the meeting on July 23rd with the FAA it was brought up that there appeared to be significant errors in the benefit cost analysis and that they (FAA) asked the County to redo the benefit cost analysis. He said he thought the FAA had also encouraged the County to work with some of the community experts that were at the meeting. Mr. Rembold stated he was at that meeting and the County was not instructed to redo the benefit cost analysis. Mr. Smetek stated it is his understanding that a letter has been sent from the FAA instructing the County to redo the benefit cost analysis. Mr. Rembold stated no such letter has been received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED – None

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Airports Board meeting will be Thursday October 16, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:35 PM