

# AIRPORTS BOARD

June 18, 2015

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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 June 18, 2015 at 1:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Town of Hilton Head Island. Chairman Rich Sells called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Airports Board Members: Rich Sells, Dan Ahern, Leslie Adlam, James Buckley, Will Dopp, Anne Esposito (Absent: Allan Rae, Derek Gilbert, Ross Roberts and Gregory Viventi).  
Councilman John McCann, Town of Hilton Head Island Liaison.

County Staff: Jon Rembold, Airports Director and Renee' Ford, Administrative Assistant.

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright. David Thompson, Fidelis. Residents – Joe Zimmerman, Jim Webb, Bob Gentzler, Mike Peery, Ron Smetek and Councilman Steve Fobes.

## **MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA**

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Ahern, seconded by Mr. Buckley that the June 18, 2015 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, James Buckley, Dan Ahern, Will Dopp, Anne Esposito and Leslie Adlam. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Allan Rae, Derek Gilbert, Greg Viventi, and Ross Roberts. MOTION PASSED.

## **MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES**

**Motion:** It was moved by Ms. Esposito, seconded by Ms. Adlam that the May 21, 2015 minutes be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, James Buckley, Dan Ahern, Will Dopp, Anne Esposito and Leslie Adlam. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Allan Rae, Derek Gilbert, Greg Viventi, and Ross Roberts. MOTION PASSED.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

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

Mr. Rembold reported on the fuel sales and operations for the Lady's Island Airport for May 2015. Another good month!

## **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

Mr. Rembold gave the tower and operations reports for May 2015. Numbers are steadily going up. Per the Boards request, added a new slide to show HXD fuel stats.

Mr. Rembold stated there were numerous medical evacuations for the month of May and two formal noise complaints were reported from Port Royal. Mr. Rembold confirmed it was not from Vision Helicopter. Vision Helicopter contacts the Airport several times a month to ensure we are not receiving complaints. If we do have complaints, Vision Helicopter adjusts his flight pattern.

Mr. Dopp reported Port Royal residents have spoken to the person responsible. They own a hangar on the North end.

Mr. Rembold reviewed the project schedule updates. These are new slides per Board request. Runway 21 Open Bids began today, 6/18/15.

RWY 03, still awaiting FONSI; waiting for FAA to issue. FAA has a single staff member handling multiple requests. Chairman, Sells asked any idea when it will be approved. Ms. Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright, is hopeful sometime next week.

Mr. Rembold stated he met with Corps of Engineer regarding the wetlands application for the drainage ditch; moving application forward.

Mr. Dopp asked the status of American/US Airways; are they going to restore any additional flights. Mr. Rembold response was, no it doesn't appear with the schedule we currently have. One additional flight was added on the weekend, maybe in August additional flights will be added during the week.

Mr. Buckley commented on American Airlines is reevaluating their Dash-8 routes which is a contributing factor.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Rembold stated HXD has a new transportation company, Cadillac Express. The company is offering an all inclusive package; transportation, dining reservations, entertainment options. They came onboard at the beginning of June.

Mr. Rembold sent the draft Rules and Regulations Minimum Standards to Chairman for review. The standards were last adopted by County Council in 1992. Can continue to operate while being reviewed; several changes due to FAA changes. Will present to Board in July to forward to County Council for review. Mr. Dopp suggested the draft document with Chairman Sells comments, be sent to board before next meeting. Chairman Sells, stated he will forward them to the board after his review. Mr. Rembold will present to board next month for a motion.

Mr. Rembold stated HXD has a new Operating Agreement with HH Sky. HH Sky offers flight training, charter & aircraft management. Mr. Rembold gets several calls about charter flights. Mr. Ahern asked what type of plane HH Sky has; Mr. Rembold responded, a Citation Mustang. Several renewal agreements have been signed this month as well.

Mr. Rembold reported a Purchase Order (PO) was issued for four (4) air packs for the fire station; was able to use Hilton Head Fire & Rescue procurement to get same volume-based price. Air packs have a limited shelf life. This is Part 139 requirement. This expense was in this year's capital budget.

Mr. Rembold met with HH Flyers to get a sense of their operation; the way pilots use the airport and how instructors have a different perspective. They have to go through every scenario to train a pilot. The meeting was very insightful; gave ideas on how to improve.

Mr. Rembold requested approval to advertise with the State Dept Commerce. Mr. Rembold would promote economic development for both airports. If you purchase an 8<sup>th</sup> of a page, you also receive web advertising. Chairman Sells asked the cost, Mr. Rembold stated below \$2,000 per year. Mr. Dopp asked is it in the budget, Mr. Rembold response, yes. Mr. Rembold will email numbers to get feedback from the board.

Mr. Buckley asked if we can purchase more than an 8<sup>th</sup> of a page if we would partner with the Chamber of Commerce and do we have the time. Mr. Rembold stated, yes it's a great idea to join forces with the Chamber and no we don't have the time.

Ms. Adlam will check with the Chamber of Commerce this afternoon and she asked if we get a discount because we are a "County Government" and who does the design. Mr. Rembold responded by saying "no" we don't get a discount and the design is included in the price. The board is in favor of advertising, would like to see the numbers, but Mr. Rembold should proceed.

Mr. Rembold addressed the Open and Fair Skies issue. We have been asked by American Airlines to sign onto a letter that advocates on behalf of the aims of the Partnership for Open and Fair Skies. Mr. Rembold asked Ms. Esposito to explain what this means. Ms. Esposito stated it is very important for our airports to do this. This is to stop Saudi Arabian airlines and other Gulf region airlines from benefitting from their own government subsidies and then undercutting US airline companies for some international travel.

Mr. Sells explained it is to create a level playing field for US carriers in competing with foreign carriers. Some Middle East carriers, specifically Eithad, a Qatar based carrier have their aircraft paid for by the government and as a result don't have to carry the depreciation expense on their books. This expense differential creates a significant operating cost advantage to the foreign carriers. If the legislation goes forward it would restrict these carriers. The letter will come from Mr. Rembold; he will move forward and sign the letter.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Amendment to TBE Work Authorization 2119-1402 – ARW EA** – Mr. Ahern had several questions/concerns, which are listed below. They were discussed and motion approved.

### **An excerpt from Mr. Ahern's email:**

1. Since there will be impacts to critical areas, I suggest that local environmental groups be included in the development of mitigation measures. This will help in acceptance of the final project. Right now it seems that only TBE develops and works with OCRM.
2. Compatible Land Use - It seems that the Walmart development should be addressed in this activity. FAA has to review and the State aeronautic will review.
3. Flood Plain- It is my understanding that FEMA will be releasing new mapping soon. Efforts ought to be made to see what impacts this will have. Also this would seem to be the area to address sea level rise and what mitigation could be incorporated into the project

4. Hazardous Materials/Solid waste - will the impact of the old landfill be addressed in this section. Do we know whether that landfill contains hazardous materials? It is my understanding that the parallel taxiway would require this to be moved.

Mr. Buckley asked if the ponds will be a “fog” concern. Mr. Rembold response was no, there are other things that are bigger “fog” concern. Mr. Buckley will get a better understanding once he tours ARW.

**Motion:** It was moved by Ms. Esposito, seconded by Mr. Ahern that the Amendment to TBE Work Authorization 2119-1402 – ARW EA be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, James Buckley, Dan Ahern, Will Dopp, Anne Esposito and Leslie Adlam. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Allan Rae, Derek Gilbert, Greg Viventi, and Ross Roberts. MOTION PASSED

**Hangar Rates** – Mr. Rembold discussed the Hangar Rental Rate increase at ARW and HXD; ARW to be increased by 5% and HXD by 3%. The reason for the increase is to cover building insurance for the hangars, maintenance, and power. Mr. Dopp asked the reason for the increase at ARW by 5% and HXD by 3%. He also, asked if a study was done to be competitive. Mr. Rembold response was yes we did a comparison to other airports. Also, the reason for the difference in percentage is based on number of hangars we have at each airport, the conditions they are in and it came out as 5% for ARW and 3% for HXD. The last increase for ARW was in 2013 at 5% and for HXD was in March 2014 at 5%.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Dopp, seconded by Ms. Esposito that the Hangar Rates be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, James Buckley, Dan Ahern, Will Dopp, Anne Esposito and Leslie Adlam. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Allan Rae, Derek Gilbert, Greg Viventi, and Ross Roberts. MOTION PASSED

**Vehicle Parking at ARW** – Mr. Rembold proposed a decal on vehicles at ARW. There are several unsightly vehicles parked at ARW that haven’t moved for over a year. The decal would apply to all airport tenants of the airport terminal offices. The exceptions would be for visitors attending meetings; aircraft owners who park their vehicle at their hangar; and customers using flight school or aerial tours. Non-profit organizations who maintain vehicles on the premises will receive a decal at no cost. The yearly rate per vehicle will be \$120. This will assist in the accountability of the vehicles currently parked at ARW and with the Walmart coming soon to prevent anyone from parking there unlawfully.

Mr. Ahern asked if we can get a memo from the police department to enforce the parking. Mr. Rembold asked legal and it should be doable.

Mr. Dopp stated the board looked into this a few years ago at HXD. Discovered most of the GA parking belongs to Signature and the small revenue wasn’t worth it. Mr. Ahern stated if we didn’t do it for HXD should we do it at ARW. Mr. Rembold response was they are two different markets. It won’t bring in a lot of revenue but would certainly help out ARW. Mr. Ahern then asked if there are currently any signs posted. Mr. Rembold response was no, not at this time.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Buckley, seconded by Ms. Esposito that the Vehicle Parking at ARW be approved. The vote was: FOR – Rich Sells, James Buckley, Dan Ahern, Will Dopp, Anne Esposito and Leslie Adlam. ABSTAIN: - Dan Ahern. AGAINST – None. ABSENT: Allan Rae, Derek Gilbert, Greg Viventi, and Ross Roberts. MOTION PASSED

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**General Aviation Parking Lot Lighting** - Mr. Rembold gave the Town of Hilton Head a “hats off” for expediting the application. Mr. Rembold sent the application to the Town on a Monday and by Wednesday afternoon he had a permit. Schedule hasn’t been set but will be completed for the Concours Motoring Event.

**Signature Flight Support Agreement** – The agreement is in legal for review. It took approximately 18 months to complete; once legal completes, will obtain all signatures. Mr. Dopp stated this is a good agreement for both parties, asked why 2014 is in document when we are in 2015. Mr. Rembold stated it took that long to complete, but the dates will reflect 2015.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED** –

Jim Webb stated Signature price of gasoline was expensive and he knows a couple who refuse to come here because of the high cost jet fuel.

Mr. Thompson from Fidelis, is a resident and businessman whose company is located at both airports; Hilton Head approximately 18 months and ARW for approximately 2 years. Concerned about paying for parking decals at ARW; as a business owner at the airports and paying a concession fee, doesn’t feel he should have to pay for a parking decal. Will this eventually apply to Signature? Who is going to have the oversight to enforce? Assuming there will be penalties and fines. As a corporate pilot, haven’t come across any parking fees anywhere else. Mr. Thompson rents several hangars at both airports.

Notice other service providers that are non-compliant. They don’t have the proper liability insurance, no Operating Agreement, or current license fee. Mr. Thompson calculated at HXD a loss of 1.4M over the last 12 months due to not being reported to the County because of lack of proper Operating Agreements and \$42,000 in concession fees. If the concession fees were enforced by those who don’t have an Operating Agreement it would generate more revenue than any parking fee. He agrees the vehicles at ARW are “eye sorer” but doesn’t think imposing a parking fee is the solution.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Airports Board meeting will be Thursday July 23, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the Beaufort County Government Center, County Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 2:45 PM