

# MINUTES

## Beaufort County Airports Board

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May 18, 2023 | 1:30 pm | Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Leslie Adlam Flory

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### ATTENDANCE

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**Present:** Leslie Adlam Flory, Anne Esposito, James Buckley, Thomas Sheahan, Brian Turrisi, David Nelems and Nick Mesenburg.

**Absent:** Howard Ackerman, Chris Butler, and Mark Bailey.

**County Staff:** Jon Rembold, Airports Director; Stephen Parry, Deputy Airports Director; and Rocio Rexrode, Administrative Specialist.

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### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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**Motion:** James Buckley made a motion to adopt the agenda. Thomas Sheahan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion:** Brian Turrisi made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023, meeting minutes. Thomas Sheahan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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### PUBLIC COMMENTS

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There were no Public Comments

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### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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- **DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

**Staff Spotlight: Charles "Dan" Neeson – Operations Chief**

Jon Rembold mentioned that Dan has been with the Airports for 9 years. He said that Dan started on the maintenance side and is currently the Operations Chief. Rembold stated that Dan has been a great asset through the years.

- **HXD UPDATE:**

**Terminal Bids –June 7:**

Rembold said that the Terminal bids open on June 7th. After the bids open, they must be evaluated, and then they go in front of County Council; so, there is a time lag between the opening of the bids and beginning the project.

**TSA Pre-Check Event(s):**

Rembold stated that there is a date open in July to hold a TSA Pre-Check event at ARW, and one in late October to hold an event in Hilton Head, so there will be couple of opportunities to host the Pre-check events.

**WHHI 843-TV:**

Rembold mentioned that WHHI TV (local TV) recorded their show at the Terminal. Rembold said that he and the County Administrator each recorded a segment. The airport segment highlighted the terminal project and thanking the folks for flying local. In related news, Rembold said that the County has several gas station TV spots that were purchased, and hopefully some airport information will appear on them.

**Chase Fulmer:**

Rembold mentioned that Chase Fulmer will be joining the team in a couple of weeks. He said that Chase will be working alongside the Ambassadors Program, but also somewhat independent greeting folks and helping with some of the customer-service work around the Terminal.

**Ambassadors:**

Rembold asked Leslie Adlam Flory for an update.

Flory stated that the Ambassadors Program will be starting the first weekend in June.

There was a discussion regarding the option of having an Ambassadors Program at Signature.

**Airlines Meeting:**

Rembold mentioned that Airport staff and the Airport consultants met with the Airlines to discuss agreements, rates, and charges. He said it was a successful meeting and that talks are progressing with the Airlines.

**“Transportation”:**

Rembold said that there is a proposal to change the definition of the word “Transportation” as it relates to the interpretation in State law. He stated that currently it excludes “aviation” as a mode of transportation. Rembold explained that aviation could use the ability to find more funding via a sales tax if the definition is changed. Rembold emphasized the Board's role as advocates to engage and to tell the story about why the definition change is important.

- **ARW UPDATE:**

**Grand Re-Opening:**

Jon Rembold stated that it was a fantastic evening. Rembold thanked the Members who attended the event. He said that it was a turning point for the Beaufort Executive Airport.

**Visit from US Army:**

Jon Rembold related that on Tuesday a CH-47 Chinook landed on the grass out in the airfield, and one of the soldiers jumps out of the helicopter, comes over towards the Terminal, and says, “Hey, we heard you guys have really cool T-shirts here!” Rembold stated that the ARW merchandise is so cool, that the US military is stopping to get it. He said that the Frogmore t-shirts are not only “world famous” but that now the US military wants to wear them.

**Hangars – Beginning Permitting Phase (6-8 mos.):**

Jon Rembold said that it will take 6-8 months to get the permits back. He said after the permits are back, they will be able to move to bidding.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business.

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**NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS**

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1. **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT (HXD) - RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE TALBERT, BRIGHT AND ELLINGTON WORK AUTHORIZATION 2119-2302, TAXIWAY F REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION**

Anne Esposito made a motion to approve the recommendation to approve TBE Work Authorization 2119-2302 for the rehabilitation and construction of Taxiway F. Brian Turrisi seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2. **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT (HXD) & BEAUFORT EXECUTIVE AIRPORT (ARW) - RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE A 5% HANGAR FEE INCREASE**

Anne Esposito made a motion to approve the recommendation to approve the 5% hangar fee increase at HXD and ARW. Thomas Sheahan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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**CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

1. **Finance Committee**

Members: Howard Ackerman (Chair), Anne Esposito, Chris Butler, and Brian Turrisi.

The Committee has nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any developments.

2. **Communications and Marketing Committee**

Members: Jim Buckley (Chair), Brian Turrisi, and Leslie Adlam Flory.

The Committee has nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

3. **Passenger Service Committee**

Members: Leslie Adlam Flory (Chair), Anne Esposito

See Leslie Adlam Flory update above. Recorded under Director’s Report – Ambassadors.

4. **ARW Facilities Use and Improvement Committee**

Members: Chris Butler (Chair), Mark Bailey, and Trey Ambrose

The Committee has nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

5. **The HHI Airport General Aviation Improvement Committee (HXD)**

Members: Howard Ackerman and Brian Turrisi.

The Committee has nothing new to report this month. They will keep the board informed of any new developments.

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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There were no Public Comments

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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Motion to adjourn was made at 2:09 pm. It passed unanimously.

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**NEXT MEETING**

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June 15, 2023 | 1:30 pm | Hybrid Meeting

Beaufort County Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC.