

## WICOMICO COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION

March 11, 2019

Present: Calvin Peacock, Chairman; Matthew E. Creamer, Vice Chairman; James Brooke; John Cannon; Gerard DiCairano; Nola Arnold; Bud Church

Staff: Dawn Veatch; Jacquie Benton-Ware

Other: Patrick Nelms, Bay Land Aviation;

### MINUTES

The February 25, 2019 minutes were approved.

### AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

The 2020 Operations budget was resubmitted and the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was slightly modified since it had not been approved as discussed at the last county council meeting. We could still make some edits because there was a lot of extra items in our operations budget that came in after the CIP was formulated.

The Assistant Manager Vacancy announcement will be going out this week. One individual is scheduled to come from Ithaca who is well qualified. The applicant is planning to spend some time going around the airport and, hopefully, schedule some time to meet with County Executive Bob Culver and County Administrator Wayne Strausburg.

We have contracted a marketing firm to assist with the advertising. The marketing firm will be used to develop a marketing plan for the UAS Center for Innovation, the new FBO and American Airlines in FY2020. American Airlines does not advertise for their regionals and they prohibit their wholly subsidiaries to advertise. With this all in mind, we not only have to advertise for the airlines but we need to be sure that our community knows of all the economic development that is occurring out here and we need developers in here so we need to get out in there trade publications or get to their conferences to get the word out.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) provided a drawing for their new facility. We are going to put them over in the drone facility the gates at taxiway G which will be good for them to be able to have parents, meetings, fundraisers, etc. and not have to go through security. They want an 8 aircraft ramp and they will be co-located next to the drones. They operate drones when they exercise the C.A.P activities, so this will be a very compatible location for them. We added their desired location in the master plan.

The 1st Hangar Tenant meeting was this week. We resume painting today. They are doing pressure washing on the T-hangars for a couple of weeks. We are working diligently to get the tenants out of their hangars and in to empty hangars. This is why we have not opened up our vacant hangars to new tenants as we need the swing space. We have a new lease on the community hangar so as soon as painting commends, it will no longer be the community hangar, and it will be fully rented by Dr. Thomas Rosenthal. Expected completion is before Wings and Wheels so we can show case the new SBY Regional Airport.

Wings and Wheels advertising will start in a week or so with Delmarva Public Radio and a few others. The planning for this year has been minimal due to the canceled event last year- no new lessons learned or new additions to the event.

Reached out to three Senators, Cardin, Van Hollen and Carper (DE) for a briefing on the new projects at SBY and how they can support us in Congress and FAA funding and USDA grants. Some items is the runway extension and the other is the FEMA center. Carper especially, is extremely interested in the drone aspect of the airport. Meeting and Airport Tour is being scheduled with staffers for April recess.

Dawn Veatch reached out to Commissioner Church and Tri-County Council for strategic assistance for financial support for SBY. She gave them our economic forecast and traffic forecast out of the master plan to get them to work into their 5 year plan for the transportation section.

#### AIRPORT COMMISSION COMMENTS

County commissioner, Jerry DiCairano had asked about the outcome of a call with the FAA regarding the runway extension. Dawn Veatch explained that they do not want to stay on our schedule. We have sent them all the documents that they need, which are required to review in thirty days. We have asked for an accelerated process, however, they are not accelerating and instead are lagging. They gave us 65 write-ups and 40 of them were outside the scope of the project, which in short is meant to slow down the process. We did have a meeting of what the scope of the project is and the manager did back off a bit so we will see how it goes this month. April 1<sup>st</sup> we will be done with our documentation, so if they don't commit to giving us a 30 day turnaround, then we will go to the FAA Administrator hopefully along with Senators Cardin, Van Hollen and Carper.

Commissioner Jamie Brooke asked Dawn Veatch if the FAA has ever come back to her saying they were with her on the runway extension. Dawn Veatch stated that they do not think we/Piedmont need it need 7800' or 8000' as requested. Flight Standards manages the airlines and say you have to operate this airplane with this within the regulatory guidelines of FAR 121. They then come up with a number that you have to use to operate. Airports does not calculate their runway requirements in the same manner.

Calvin Peacock called for a motion to adjourn. Jamie Brooke moved to adjourn and Nola Arnold seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday, April 8, 2019.

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Calvin Peacock, Chairman