

Wicomico County Airport Commission

July 13, 2020

Present: Calvin Peacock, Chairman; Matthew Creamer, Vice Chairman; John Cannon; Jerry DiCairano; Dave Ryan, Ex-Officio; Wayne Strausburg, Ex-officio; John Hall, Ex-officio

Staff: Tony Rudy, Airport Manager

Others: Nick Olmstead of Kilroy Aviation; Patrick Nelms, Bayland Aviation; Clayton Pauze, Chief Pilot for Perdue Farms; Mel Snyder; Peter Bale, SRS

Absent: Bud Church, Nola Arnold, April Jackson

Minutes

June 8, 2020, minutes were approved.

Airport's Manager Report

SBY Airport Manager, Tony Rudy presented the Airport Manager's Report, as follows:

1. **Master Plan and ALP:** The Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and Master Plan had been approved by the FAA.
 2. **Project and Contract Status Update**
 - a. **UAS Hangar Construction:** Shell of the building is complete and the hangar door installed. Contractor has been working with Delmarva Power, as well as getting the utilities in place. They have also been working with the City on getting permits for the sewer and a temporary well. A contract has been signed for the interior fit out with Harper and Sons-- work is just now getting underway.
 - b. **Environmental Assessment (EA) and Land Services:** Delta Airport consultants are continuing on the projects. From previous project experience, typically this work cannot be done until the Master Plan/ALP is approved by the FAA. To maximize time, the airport decided to get a jump start on the project to stay ahead of schedule. The head start would then allow the airport to start on the runway extension project. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed around the end of year.
- i.NOTE: There will be a second property owners briefing on July 21, 2020 and a notice has gone out to them last week (07/01/20).

c. **Runway Benefit Cost Analysis:** Delta Airport consultants are continuing to work on that with the subcontractor. The FAA requires this project for any project over 10 million dollars in scope-- requiring cost analysis to be done to justify that project. They are expecting deliverables on that towards the end of the month.

d. **Runway 14-32 Extension Design:** Delta submitted task order for airport and FAA review and are waiting for comments and/or approval. Once approved, when funds are available, they can start the project as soon as possible.

.NOTE: This is an expensive project even for 1400 feet of pavement.

e. **Taxiway A:** Phase 1 has been completed for a month. SBY Airport is looking into starting Phase 2-- construction covers the area from taxiway C to runway 32. In terms of funding, there is a little over \$1 million in entitlement money in the coming fiscal year and will need an additional \$1.8 million. They are hoping to use the CARES Act Grant to cover the additional costs. SBY Airport is awaiting the FAA for guidance on usage of the CARES Act. Looking to start construction of Phase 2 by August, however, there is still uncertainty depending on how the funding is distributed.

f. **Air Carrier Apron:** Work has continued well. Contractor is expected to finish sometime in August with only a few slight delays due to rain.

g. **Runway Rubber Removal, Crack Filling, Surface Marking Painting:** Pavement Crack filling completed on taxiways E, F and G. A reevaluation of the rest of the pavement will take place to determine what will be completed next year. Runway rubber removal completed on 06/08/2020-- expecting this process of removal will be a yearly duty. Within the upcoming weeks, the runway centerline will be repainted, as well as some of the taxiway markings (near the areas of the crack filling). Repainting is expected to only take a day to finish, but will have to work at night when air traffic is at its lowest.

.NOTE: The Pavement Maintenance-- SBY Airport increased the budget \$24,000 over the last fiscal year, and feel that will reflect what is needed to be spent annually for pavement/rubber removal upkeep and meeting FAA standards. The airport is on track for next year to continue this project. In a period of 4 years, everything should be remarked and sealed.

i.NOTE: There is 3.4 million sq. ft. (or 54 lane miles) of pavement on the airport side, not including front drive or parking areas, being redone/sealed

h. **Airport City Water:** NO updates-- still waiting on state loan.

i. **Construction of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility:** All of the design work completed. The Value Engineering was completed recently. SBY Airport is currently working with Fisher Architecture for a Construction and Administration Proposal-- expected to have in the upcoming weeks. However, SBY Airport is waiting on the FAA CARES Act Grant guidance before the project can be conducted.

.NOTE: Until it is known that the project is eligible, they won't know what type of strings could be attached. Fortunately, the project will be ready to go as soon as the guidance comes through.

j. **Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Truck:** MAA indicated to SBY Airport earlier in the year that they were willing to fund some projects for the airport. Priorities were established, and indicated that they would fund up to \$315,000 for the purchase of machinery. The primary ARFF Truck is currently 15 years old, and requires consistent maintenance over the past few years (typically the trucks last for 10 years

and the FAA will fund them every 10 years). However, due to other priorities, the replacement of the truck was put on hold. SBY Airport is looking into the additional funds for the truck (total cost for the truck was \$777,000), and are looking towards reprogramming from the CARES Act. As soon as the FAA gives information on eligibility, then they can go about funding this project. The grant application will be submitted to MAA by the end of this week (07/19/20).

k. Industrial Park Tree Clearing & Wetland Mitigation: Plans have been completed and signed off on. SBY Airport is going to be working with Delta consultants to determine what areas can be cleared. Also working with finance to determine what can be done this year depending on funds available. Taxiway G needs to be cleared out that leads to the UAS Hangar-- expect wetland mitigation with that project. They are looking into clearing the other upland areas to have the section for the industrial part ready for development.

l. Various Parking Lot Rehabilitation Projects: Currently looking to the FAA for approval and guidance on the CARES Act Funding. The rental car return lot will be expanded and reconfigured, Piedmont parking lots redone, and additions of lighting and crosswalk work.

m. Piedmont Hangars and Old Terminal Building Roof Rehab Projects: SBY Airport is looking to come up with a more permanent solution to the continuous problems of having to upkeep the roofs of buildings over the years. A proposal for design work was completed as of last year and the airport is waiting on the FAA to give further guidance of the CARES Act Funding.

3. CARES Act Grant: County Council authorized the County Executive to accept the grant on June 7, 2020. The 18.1 million dollar grant was fully executed on July 9, 2020. Roughly half the grant is planned to go towards operation and maintenance expenses over the next four years due to FAA requests. The FAA has also caused some delays to many development projects.

i. Projects Identified: New Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility, Maintenance Building, Paving, Roof Rehabilitation, and adding an automated parking attendant (with the extra revenue, the automated attendant will end up paying for itself after 1.5 years).

4. Passenger Activity: Numbers of passengers and vehicles in the public lot are noticeably increasing. Piedmont reported numbers for June 2020 was a total of 2,134 aircraft passengers (only 32% of the June 2019 reported numbers), thankfully the numbers are trending upwards. Piedmont load factors for the month of June 2020 were 49%, that's considering the fewer number of flights going in and out.

5. Backfilling Assistant Manager vacancy: Scheduled two interviews on 07/17/2020 and possibly one more interview. Hoping to get the position backfilled as soon as possible.

Chairman's Report:

Calvin Peacock updates as follows:

- The bill was approved by the House, Senate, and Governor Hogan for tax exemption of aircraft parts. There is also a 5 year sunset to the tax exemption. Calvin has spoken to AOPA to make sure that if there is any growth in the maintenance areas, it will be reported to the AOPA. When the 5 years pass, the numbers show cost effectiveness by creating jobs, which in turn will remove the sunset in 5 years.
- Wanted to formally recognize and thank the Airport Maintenance Crews for the outstanding effort on the upkeep of the airport's grounds and general appearance. Chairman Peacock had received positive comments from some members of the community about the look of the airport.

Questions/Open floor:

NONE

Public Comments

NONE

Airport Commission Comments

Jerry DiCairano: Wanted to know more information about the ability to attach a wash rack for aircraft.

Tony Rudy: Looked into it-- found out cost estimating around \$300,000. Not able to justify taking on this project at that cost.

Jerry DiCairano: Mentions the solar panel project over the airline parking lot.

Tony Rudy: Certainly looking into it, that project would go along with the parking lot extension. With current passengers and numbers being down, along with other projects taking priority, probably will start it in a few years.

Jerry DiCairano: Mentions the Protective Corridors for Drone Traffic separation-- any thought or information from the FAA? Any date in mind to get drone operations going along with a separation plan?

Tony Rudy: Once SRS gets their operation to SBY Airport, they will be able to get the plan. There are multiple ways to approach, one being they can operate the aircraft in the airspace, but the FAA will need to sign off on the plans. Nick Olmstead has provided contact information-- once the assistant manager position is filled, we will get more updates on that.

John Cannon: Following up to Jerry DiCairano-- Would it be a good idea to fast forward the solar panels with all the funding through the CARES Act Grant?

Tony Rudy: It was considered, but with the funding only being \$18 Million (along with all the other priority projects and operating expenses deducted), the money doesn't stretch that far. Last year, SBY Airport had to cut back on half the money for the operating budget. So for those reasons, the project has been cut out for now.

Jerry DiCairano: Mentions Charles Collier passed away at age 95-- He was a WWII Veteran and a tenant since the 1950's (he was the last surviving crew member of his WWII Destroyer). Truly was a great addition to SBY Airport for decades.

Adjournment:

Chairman Peacock adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday August 10, 2020.