

WICOMICO COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION

AUGUST 14, 2017

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

Staff: Denise Shellaby; Jacqueline Benton-Ware; Edward Jackson

Other: David Goslee, Ex-Officio Member; Patrick Nelms, Bay Land Aviation

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hall called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.

MINUTES

The July 10, 2017 minutes were approved.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Hall introduced Airport Administrative Office Associate Jacqueline Benton-Ware. Mrs. Benton-Ware is in training to become the new recording secretary for the Airport Commission. The Assistant Manager position is currently being advertised.

LEASING UPDATES

McCain and Associates have been hired to appraise the buildings and hangars so fair market value can be applied to the leases. Wicomico County is negotiating a long term hangar complex lease agreement with Piedmont Airlines. Since the fire service will not be included in the lease terms, the airport will have to start charging landing fees to offset the fire service costs. Originally Mr. Henson provided the manpower for the firefighters and the County paid for the training and equipment. The long term goal is to have paid firefighters stationed at the airport. In the short term, the Airport Manager is working on contracting the fire service out. The plan should be finalized by the end of October. The triennially Disaster Drill has been deferred from October to January.

TRAINING

Wildlife and bird strike training will be conducted this week. Recently, a Dash 8 aircraft struck 2 geese causing \$160,000 worth of damage to the propeller blade. Mr. Peacock advised that it is unusual for geese to be on the airfield and suggested a nesting study be conducted. Mr. Creamer stated the 10 foot inadvertent entry fence needs to be higher since there are deer inside the fenced area

DELTA AIRPORT CONSULTANTS

The Federal Aviation Administration has extended Delta Airport Consultant's contract for another year. Mr. Creamer advised formal requests for proposal and interviews for engineering services are rebid every 5 to 10 years, and eligible consultants must be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. The current list of projects consist of the mini master plan, T-hangar construction, the runway 14/32 extension feasibility study, taxiway B north and C rehabilitation, and a snow removal building. ~~and the replacement of the instrument landing system.~~ Mr. DiCairano asked for a clarification on the footage on the runway extension project. Mr. Peacock responded that the 600 foot extension was based on a 90 degree day. There was no single time in the past year that seats had to be blocked from Piedmont Airlines due to the heat. Mr. Hall added if the issue is not resolved, the County would pay American

Airlines for the difference in the seat cost. The environmental portion of the runway extension project is being worked on. Mr. Creamer advised Capital Improvement Projects do not expire at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Hall requested copies of the Capital Improvement Projects be handed out at the next Commission meeting.

WATER

The design phase of the water project is on track with a 2018 fall target time. The Airport's portion of the project is \$300,000.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Airport Management hosted a Town Hall meeting for Kilbirnie and surrounding airport residents on July 26. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss noise issues since Piedmont will begin jet service August 22. Airport Manager Dawn Veatch and Piedmont President Lyle Hogg addressed 37 residents. The meeting was positive and well received. Mrs. Arnold questioned why the Airport Commission was not informed of the Town Hall meeting and why it was not publicized. She noted that since the meeting was for Kilbirnie residents only, it was not an actual "town hall" meeting. Mrs. Arnold has received noise complaints and she, Mr. Brooke, and Mr. Peacock feel Airport Management need to have additional meetings concerning noise. Mr. Peacock noted that the Baltimore/Washington International Airport is currently experiencing legal issues as a result of radar vectoring. Mr. Brooke inquired if realtors advise potential Kilbirnie residents of airport issues. Mr. Creamer responded that the issue is covered in the sales contract. Mrs. Arnold suggested the air traffic control tower redirect the military traffic. Mr. Hall advised the military follows different rules, and Mr. Creamer added that military operations weigh significantly with regards to airport funding. Mr. Peacock suggested logging all noise complaints and setting up a noise committee. Mr. Hall will forward his comments to the Executive for consideration.

HANGARS

The last old T-Hangar building is in the process of being torn down. Mr. DiCairano relayed that tenants are interested in the time table regarding T-Hangar rehabilitation and construction. Mr. Hall advised it is a complicated bid process, and funding is being pursued. The refurbishment of the T-Hangars and rehabilitation of the taxi lanes will be staggered in phases. This project should begin in the spring.

CIVIL AIR PATROL

Mr. DiCairano inquired as to the status of the Civil Air Patrol building. Mr. Hall advised once the mini master plan is completed, a location will be determined. The Civil Air Patrol can stay in their current location for 18 months.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Monday, September 11, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

John Hall, Chairman