

## Wicomico County Airport Commission

September 14, 2020

**Present:** Calvin Peacock, Chairman; Matthew Creamer, Vice Chairman; Jerry DiCairano, Nola Arnold, John Cannon, Wayne Strausburg

**Staff:** Tony Rudy, Airport Manager; Chris Davidson, Assistant Airport Manager

**Others:** John Psota, Wicomico County Executive/Administrator; Patrick Nelms, Bayland Aviation

**Absent:** April Jackson, Bud Church

### **Minutes**

August 10, 2020, minutes were approved.

### **Airport's Manager Report**

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

1. **Assistant Airport Manager:** Welcomes Chris Davidson as the new Assistant Airport Manager. He started August 27th, 2020. He is currently taking the lead on the UAS Initiatives, starting to branch out to local community leaders, and familiarizing himself with SBY Airport operations and county policies and procedures.
2. **Project and Contract Status Update**
  - a. **UAS Hangar Construction:** The interior fit out work has begun. Taxiway and parking lot pavement is completed. Expected completion is in about 3 months.
  - b. **Environmental Assessment (EA) and Land Services:** Delta Airport Consultants continue work. Airport Manager, Tony Rudy was able to get a draft copy of the EA. Once the draft is reviewed, it will be sent to the FAA for approval. EA is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
  - c. **Runway Benefit Cost Analysis:** Delta Airport Consultants continues to work on this with their subcontractor. No further update at this time.

- d. **Runway 14-32 Extension Design:** Delta Airport Consultants have submitted a task order for FAA review. The FAA needs to issue comments or approval. Recently, SBY Airport has been revisiting available funding for the project. We will be working with the FAA once the EA is completed to talk about how to move forward. An Independent Fee Estimate will also need to be conducted.
  - e. **Taxiway A Rehabilitation:** Phase 1 was completed. Phase 2 construction for the remainder of the taxiway is expected to begin September 21-28. We are still awaiting for the FAA CARES Act Grant amendment process. Currently awaiting guidance for the \$1.9M needed for this project. Contractor is going to start milling and overlay for the project. The \$1.14M is covered under Airport Improvement Program (AIP) entitlement grant which has been executed.
  - f. **Air Carrier Apron:** Work has been completed and is fully open to traffic.
  - g. **Airport City Water:** New start date for the project is October 5th. Estimated completion date is August 15, 2021.
  - h. **Construction of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility:** On hold until the FAA receives CARES Act grant amendment guidance. The project is ready to be advertised for bid.
  - i. **Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Truck:** The MAA has \$315,000 in grant funds available for SBY for the purchase of a replacement ARFF truck. SBY Airport recently received word from the FAA that the purchase will be eligible for CARES Act funding for the remaining \$412,026. Resolution No. 92-2020 is going before the County Council on September 15th, 2020 for approval to amend the Capital Budget and allocate the funding.
3. **Passenger Activity:** Passenger numbers have leveled off for the month of August. Piedmont reported 3455 total enplaned passengers for August which is roughly 46% of 2019 enplanements for the month. Load factors are at 65%. Seeing a plateau after the last few months during this pandemic.
4. **Rosenfeld's Jewish Deli:** Rosenfeld's gave notice that it will not be returning to SBY Airport. Warren Rosenfeld stated-- "I greatly appreciate everything that the County, and the airport management, has done for me. I LOVED having a Rosenfeld's location there. But, I was not making a profit there even prior to the pandemic, and now with it, it will be that much harder to make it a profitable endeavor." SBY Airport staff are discussing ideas for a new concessionaire.

**Report from Jerry DiCairano:** Camping-- ended up in a dead end. Expressed that there have been airports that allow camping. It is a tactic to lure more people into coming to SBY Airport. By the term camping he means, people parking their aircraft and lay under the shelter of their own wing (bringing their own equipment to make a shelter

and sleeping area). Makes a point that it's cheaper than renting a car and spending a night at a hotel. The issue is that the people who want to camp, would have to camp outside the fence for security reasons. He mentioned that the UAS Drone building was the opportunity to have an area, but due to cost reasons the building was kept within the fence. Thus, there isn't an area for the campers to park their aircraft. The process of having to move their aircraft to a select location outside of the fence wouldn't be as appealing or practical. Nor would it bring much funds to SBY Airport. This idea shouldn't be thrown out giving its potential in the future.

**Questions:**

None

**Chairman's Report:**

**Calvin Peacock updates as follows:**

- Will discuss with Jerry DiCairano about the Spring Aviation Event to do in 2021
- Mentions the potential for a Wings and Wheels Event in 2022. He asks if anyone has thought about, wants to participate or help out for this event (assuming the pandemic will be under control by that point in time)?
  - Wayne Strausburg: Concern for construction for runway 14-32, thinks it is a little early to make a decision.
  - Calvin Peacock: Can consider a plan and a budget. Will talk with SBY Airport staff and the Commissioners to start planning and foresee the effects of the construction work.
  - John Cannon: Mentions that the commission is short staffed. He thinks we could do it with the Wicomico County Tourism Department.
  - Calvin Peacock: On October 15, 2020, the SBY Airport Commission with John Hall will be making a presentation of a 1947 aeronautical sectional chart of the State of Maryland gridded for SAR by the CAP. The map belongs to John Hall's father who was a B-25 pilot in WWII and involved in the CAP post WWII. The CAP meeting will be held at the Maryland National Guard Armory in Salisbury, MD. The meeting starts at 6:30 pm and the presentation will be at 7 pm, Senator Carozza and Senator Eckhardt have been invited. Tony Rudy and I met with Tom Pezzetti, Commander of the CAP Wicomico Composite Squadron to identify property on the SBY Airport for the CAP to construct a building for their meetings. John Hall has volunteered to work with the CAP in fundraising for the building and the CAP is working on writing for grant money.

### **Questions/Open floor:**

None

### **Public Comments**

Patrick Nelms: Has begun to sell fuel to government aircraft at government contract prices without a contract.

Wayne Strausburg: The airport would have to take that to County Council for approval. Will have to double check on it.

Patrick Nelms: Wanted to get it on the radar

Calvin Peacock: Would there be an advantage to getting a full contract?

Patrick Nelms: Unfortunately, it's hard to achieve without experience in government contracts but can't get experience without the contracts.

### **Airport Commission Comments**

Nola Arnold: Addressed that she was marked absent from last meeting's attendance. Wanted to verbally note that for clarification.

Calvin Peacock: The attendance issue is okay, the pandemic has caused a lot of problems for everyone so it's not a worry.

### **Adjournment:**

Calvin Peacock adjourned the meeting.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020.