

**Macon County Airport Authority**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting in the board room at the Macon County Airport, 1241 Airport Road, Franklin, NC. All members are present. Also present are Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner Liaison; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; Jake Tallent, airport employee; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; and Bob Miller, citizen. Chair Schmitt welcomes all of those present and calls the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2021.** After a brief discussion Member Horton makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **UPDATE ON DRAKE LEASE REVISION:** Mr. Collins reports that he continues to wait on Mr. Coward to coordinate the airport lease. Mr. Collins is under the impression that this will happen in the very near future and that he will forward the lease to the FAA office in Memphis upon receipt.
- B. **MOA STATUS AND/OR APPROVAL:** There is not an update on the MOA, and this item is tabled until the next meeting.
- C. **UPDATE ON HANGAR PAINTING AND ROOF REPAIR:** Mr. Tallent reports that the roof and painting of the hangar has been completed. This discussion also includes a brief discussion regarding the replacement/repair of the hangar doors, which continues to be problematic. Research will continue into finding a company that can take care of this project.
- D. **UPDATE ON OFFICE SPACE LEASE:** Mr. Bob Miller is present and informs the authority that he continues to have an interest in leasing the terminal building upstairs area. He states that fiber has been laid as far as the fire department, and the airport will be included in the fiber extension once the lease is signed. Mr. Miller continues by stating that he is willing to do the work required in the upstairs area to bring it up to code and provide heat and air in order to create an office space for his business. He states that if the lease does not come through, he will "walk away" leaving any remodeling work intact at no cost to the airport or authority. After a discussion, it is determined that Mr. Drake needs to be involved in this conversation, and that it needs to be determined if the FAA would have any problems with the sublease. Mr. Collins states that the sublease would be with Macon Air, Inc. The authority is in favor of the sublet. However, it is determined that Mr. Drake should make a formal request and that Mr. Drake and Mr. Miller should come to the authority meeting and explain the details of the potential lease. This meeting is tentatively planned for the next meeting.
- E. **DISCUSSION REGARDING SPACE FOR AUTHORITY OFFICE AND RECORDS:** After a brief discussion, it is decided that this item has been appropriately addressed in past meetings, and there is no reason to continue with any discussion regarding this matter.
- F. **UPDATE OF RETREAT PLANNING/SCHEDULING:** Member Horton states that he has been researching an appropriate agenda for this item and also hopes to get some good ideas from attending the Airport Association meeting in August. Member Horton continues by stating that he will draft a list of potential topics and potential presenters for the retreat, with September

being the goal month for the meeting. Member Horton continues by stating that this issue will be discussed again at the July 2021 MCAA meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Beale states that now would be a good time to have further discussion with the Eastern band regarding the MOA. There is a new council in place who may be willing to consider the proposal.

FBO Phillips presents the most recent financials via a phone call. He states that the airport has lost money during the COVID 19 pandemic. He also states that fuel is \$2.99 per gallon and that the price of AV gas has skyrocketed. Mr. Phillips also reports that flight training is popular and that they are actually looking for another plane. The conversation continues with Member Horton stating that the financial report should be made a part of the MCAA minutes. There is some hesitation on some members parts, when it is reported that the minutes are posted on the Macon County web site. Member Horton states that this matter should be investigated as to whether the financial could be legally included in the minutes. Discussion of this item will continue at a future meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Macon County Finance Director, Lori Carpenter states that the airport authority needs to schedule the public hearing for the FY 2021-2022 budget for the next meeting. Member Shuler makes a motion to schedule the hearing for the May 2th, 2021 meeting. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

Commissioner Beale states that the bridge and road project funding has passed through the house and is now in the Senate.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Horton makes a motion to adjourn. Member Rhodes seconds the motion which passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Pete Haithcock, Secretary