

MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE Regular Meeting Held July 27th, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Jack Horton conducts the meeting July 27th, 2021 meeting since Chair Schmitt is out of town. Member Haithcock is also out of town. All other members are present. Also present are: Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Ronnie Beale, County Commissioner; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; David Phillips, airport FBO; Jake Tallent, airport employee; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After a brief discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- **FBO Contract/Lease:** Mr. Collins reports that the lease as submitted to the FAA is not acceptable to them. Mr. Coward and Mr. Collins have re-worked the lease, and will re-submit it. The biggest issue with the lease is the grant assurances including exclusivity, which presents a problem in a small airport in that the existing infrastructure will not allow additional leasing. Member Horton states he will try to research this issue when he attends the NCACC conference.
- **Update on Hanger Painting and Roof Repair:** The roof repair and painting is complete, and all agree that it looks nice. Mr. Phillips states that the subcontractors did an excellent job.
- **Office Space Lease Proposal:** The conversation regarding the potential upstairs renovation continues with Mr. Beale stating that Mr. Miller is ready to get started on the renovation at any time. He states that the renovation will be at no cost to the county or the authority, but the authority has to agree to the allowing the sublease. He continues by stating that this would not be considered part of the deferred maintenance list. The discussion continues in that it appears that all members are comfortable with allowing the renovation, but that it is important to consult with both Chair Schmitt and Member Haithcock, who are not present, to make sure they are comfortable as well. Member Horton continues by stating that he would like to have a motion in writing that allows the request. The only problem appears to be the failure of the authority/MaconAir lease to be approved by the FAA, and there is some hesitation in entering into the sublease until that issue is resolved. Mr. Luther states that he will talk to Caleb Whitby, the DOA project manager at the conference and see if he could get some guidance regarding this matter. All members present are in favor of the renovation lease and it is expressed that this issue will hopefully be resolved by member polling before the next scheduled meeting.
- **FBO Monthly Operational and Financial Report:** Mr. Phillips reports that all hangars are full, with a waiting list in place. He also reports that fuel sales continue to be decent because they are keeping the prices low. He continues by stating that things are slow at the airport because of COVID.
- **Update on NCDOT Road Relocation:** Commissioner Beale reports that the moving of the road/bridge on Airport Road is no longer considered a priority by the DOT. He explains how the points system is applied to transportation projects and states that currently “everything is on

hold.” Mr. Beale continues by stating that there will be a new process starting in December, and currently the project is still on for 2022, but this may change in the future.

- **Update on MOA Discussion and Conference Call:** Member Horton summarized the phone call that was held between several departments and agencies, including the FAA, DOT, Eastern Band of the Cherokees and the authority. He states that he thinks the FAA may be starting to see the authority’s “side of things” and hopefully will have good news in the near future.
- **Engineers Report:** Mr. Luther reports that changes have been made in that a bid for the fuel farm construction project cannot take place until grants for the construction phase are in place. Mr. Luther reports that the design will include two 12,000 gallon tanks and removal of the existing fencing. Mr. Luther will keep the authority updated on the potential construction grant process.
- **Annual MCAA Retreat, Schedule and Update:** Member Horton reports that the retreat is scheduled for September 27th, 2021, and that the retreat and meeting will be held on the same day. The schedule is tentatively set for 10:00 a.m. to around 3:30 p.m., and will include lunch and speakers. Member Horton will provide a more detailed schedule before the next scheduled meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS: CLERKS CONTRACT:

Member Horton suggests that a conversation be held in connection to the salary that is currently paid to the Clerk, Teresa McDowell. He would like to see an increase in the stipend which currently consists of \$200.00 monthly. He continues by stating that he thinks the Clerk is doing a terrific job.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Member Shuler makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary