

MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Minutes of the Meeting Held on January 31, 2023

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at the Macon County Airport. All current members are present. Also present are Macon County Commissioner Gary Shields; Attorney Stuart Sloan; Project Engineer Jimmy Luther; Airport Manager, David Phillips; and Clerk, Teresa McDowell. Member Schmitt welcomes those present and calls the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 29TH, 2022: Member Rhodes makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Horton seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

WELCOMING OF NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER LIAISON, GARY SHIELDS: Chair Schmitt welcomes Commissioner Shields as the newly appointed liaison to the airport. All members welcome him as well. Commissioner Shields states that this is a new arena for him, but that he thinks the airport is one of the “best kept secrets” in Macon County. He offers his support, and states he is excited to serve.

PHONE CONFERENCE WITH EMILY FERREIRA REGARDING NPE FUNDING: Ms. Ferreira conference calls the authority regarding the news that Tommy Dupree, with the FAA is under the impression that that the authority and the Eastern Band of the Cherokees (EBOC) is currently operating under the “old” MOA for any construction sites at the airport. She continues by stating that any new construction project will be required to go through the environmental process as stated in the MOA, but a new agreement is not necessary. Project Engineer Jimmy Luther states that the best path forward for any construction is to obtain a work authorization and adhere to the CATEx environmental checklist, as well as prepare the request for aid as would be required in any project. This decision could affect any NPE funding the authority received.

OLD BUSINESS:

ENGINEERS REPORT: Mr. Phillips asks that Mr. Luther check with the Division of Aviation (DOA) regarding the requirement of the use of the electronic pump shut-offs at the fuel pumps in connection with filling tanker trucks. Mr. Luther states he will check with the DOA. Mr. Luther continues by stating that the new tanks are installed, and the lines to the pump have been flushed. He also states that there is a black vinyl fence with a slide gate installed. He continues by stating the fuel pump project is going well.

UPDATE ON FINANCIALS SIX (6) MONTHS REPORT: Airport Manager Phillips presents the financial reports for November and December, 2022. He states that it appears that the deferred maintenance list projects continue to “be in the hole”. He is unsure of the total of the list of projects at this time. He states that the fuel farm project is coming along well, and they are trying to keep fuel costs low. He continues by stating that providing more hangar space will contribute to the income of the airport. Member Rhodes states that he thinks the three (3) priorities for the airport in order to increase use are: 1. More ramp space; 2. More hangars; and 3. Installation of a WAAS approach. Although Member Rhodes states that the authority has been informed by the FAA more than once that the terrain makes a WAAS approach

impossible, he disagrees in that there have been many changes through the years that may validate an approach. He continues by stating there are five hundred (500) operations per year at the airport, and that a ramp connection and new hangars are crucial to promoting growth at the airport. He would like for the WAAS issue to be revisited. Member Rhodes continues by stating that with a WAAS approach installed, UPS, Fed Ex, and other corporate institutions would be more likely to utilize the airport. Mr. Phillips continues by stating that the tenant utilizing the office space on the second floor of the terminal building will be forwarding a check for two (2) years outstanding rent. The sub-lease has been signed. It is requested that the sub-lease be forwarded to Mr. Sloan for review. Member Horton also requests that a copy of the sub-lease be forwarded to Chair Schmitt or Ms. McDowell for the authority records.

NEW BUSINESS: See Financial Report Update and Other Business.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Phillips states that Ms. Crone has ordered American Flags for the poles in front of the terminal. Member Horton asks that Ms. McDowell get in touch with Macon County Maintenance to request a Macon County flag.

Mr. Phillips states that a pipe in the ceiling burst during the very cold weather. He further states that Serv Pro and Macon County Maintenance have been involved in the repairs and that Serv Pro should be back on February 17th to continue cleaning. Also frost free, non-drainable spigots have been installed for preventative measures.

There is a discussion regarding purchasing additional insurance for the protection of the authority. Member Rhodes makes a motion to purchase the insurance which should conform to accepted standards in connection with providing additional liability for protection of the authority members, up to and including the amount of two thousand five hundred (\$2,500.00) dollars. Member Horton seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Member Haithcock will do the follow-up on this requested issue.

Member Shuler has retracted her resignation via an e-mail and the authority has determined that this form of communication is acceptable. After further discussion, Member Rhodes makes a motion to accept the retraction as forwarded. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Ms. McDowell states that the plaque honoring Miles Gregory for his service and one in appreciation of Bob Scott for the donation of pictures has been ordered.

Member Horton states that he would like to see a substitute dinner for the Christmas dinner planned. A date of April 25th, 2023 is set. Ms. McDowell will send out a list of potential attendees to the authority for review and will contact Haywood BBQ regarding setting the date.

The NPE funds have been deferred for two (2) years, but upon release they may be able to be utilized for hangars.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Horton makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and the meeting is adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary