

**MINUTES OF THE MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regular meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Macon County Airport. All members are present. Also present are Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Sabrina Crone, Macon County Airport; Neil Hoppe, prior FBO; DOT Representatives Steve Williams and Andy Russell; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2022:** After a brief discussion Member Haithcock makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Horton seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDING FY 2021-2022:** After a discussion Member Haithcock makes a motion to approve the budget ordinance as prepared by the finance office staff. Member Horton seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET ORDINANCE FY 2022-2023:** After a discussion Member Haithcock makes a motion to approve the budget ordinance as prepared by the finance office staff. Member Horton seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** Neil Hoppe, the previous FBO of the Macon County Airport is present in order to speak with the authority regarding potential hangar construction. He explains that several pilots are interested in renting hangar space at the airport, but that there is none available at this time. Member Horton explains that the building of hangars is a number one priority for the authority, but there are “hoops to jump through” in order to obtain funding.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **ENGINEERS REPORT:** Project Engineer Jimmy Luther states that currently the fuel farm project is sixty (60) days out, and that things are being brought in order in order to start construction. He also addresses the Airport Counting Service which is being offered through the DOA. This is a service that offers software and a camera system to help log airport activity at the airport. The DOA will pay for up to 50% of the equipment, capped at \$3000.00. The authority is interested in obtaining this service.

B. **REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING:** Member Horton reports that he attended the commissioner’s meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. He presented the Code of Ethics that the authority has adopted. Member Horton continues by stating that it is important to have regular reports presented to the commissioners and to keep them informed of the positive economic impact of the Macon County Airport. Member Horton continues by stating that the Code of Ethics and the economic report submitted were well received.

C. **REPORT OF ROAD RELOCATION BY N.C. DOT:** Steve Williams, Planning Engineer and Andy Russell, District Engineer of the N.C. Department of Transportation are available at the meeting. Commissioner Ronnie Beale has arranged for them to attend. There is a discussion regarding the future runway expansion. Steve Williams reports that there should be local support for this project and states that he will forward documentation regarding this. Andy Russell states that the extension funding is

secure, but that certain data, including airport traffic flow, as well as local support data needs to be provided. He continues by stating that local support is a priority for awarding this funding. If certain information is not available, the project could be pushed further into the future with a potential date of 2027 or 2029. Mr. Luther states that the ALP plan for the airport does support an extension. There are some issues involving the archaeological review, which are causing potential delays. However, the plan for extension includes a 500' extension with a 1000' safety over-run. The authority will start addressing the issue of local support. In connection to the moving of the road and bridge adjoining the airport, Mr. Russell states that this project will be difficult to fit into current budget shortages. A safety issue needs to be addressed in order to make the project significant, which the authority informs Mr. Russell does exist. Mr. Russell continues by stating that there are hurdles with the DOT in that finding the funding sources needed within the DOT is challenging. Commissioner Beale suggests that a traffic count be completed. He continues by stating that Macon County has a good relationship with the DOT and appreciates their efforts. Commissioner Beale states that any assistance that Mr. Russell can provide is appreciated, and he expresses appreciation for their attendance.

**FINANCIALS SIX (6) MONTHS REPORT:** FBO Phillips is not present at this meeting. Ms. Sabrina Crone distributes copies of the one (1) month reports. She states that currently the reports requested by the authority are not available in the requested format and she will investigate as to when they may be available.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Ms. Sabrina Crone is introduced to the authority. She works for Mr. Phillips and is responsible for forwarding information to the authority, as well as developing reports and other documentation. Member Horton states that Drake Enterprises, Inc. through the FBO, needs to obtain a sub-lease with the upstairs tenants. Mr. Collins states that he will talk to Mr. Coward about this. Commissioner Beale reports that Chief Sneed, of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians is not available for the first two weeks of July. Commissioner Beale will attempt to set up a meeting upon his return.

There being no further business, Member Horton makes a motion to adjourn. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted:

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Pete Haithcock, Secretary