

**MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Macon County Airport. All members with the exception of Member Horton are present. Also present are David Phillips, FBO; Karl Gillespie, County Commissioner; Jimmy Luther, W.K. Dickson; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Ryan Conley, Drake Enterprises; Mike McFerrin, Drake Enterprises; Jake Tallent, FBO liaison; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk. Chair Schmitt welcomes all present and calls the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUES FOR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2020:** After a brief discussion, Member Shuler makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Rhodes seconds the message and it passes by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** None

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** Mr. Luther reports that bids for the fuel farm should go out in early spring. Currently the design is being done. Mr. Phillips states that he does not want 10,000 gallon fuel tanks at the airport, but instead prefers 12,000 gallon tanks. Mr. Luther states that in order to do that, the tanks will have to be vertical to include the extra space. He continues by stating that there will be double walled tanks, and stainless steel piping. Three public bids will be sought at the appropriate time. A draft review of the report from TRC involving the environmental mitigation will be forwarded to the tribes for comment. This is good news in that this matter is moving forward.

**REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Mr. McFerrin and Mr. Conley are present in order to answer any questions regarding the financial reports. The reports sent via e-mail each month contain income, other sales, fixed assets and balance sheets. There is a question regarding the deferred maintenance costs vs. the income, with Mr. Phillips stating that they have had a net loss of \$97,000.00 since leasing the airport. However, he continues that not all of this is attributed to repairs as listed on the deferred maintenance list. He continues by stating that the profit margin is low because of the COVID 19 crisis.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

It is reported that E-Tech from Sylva is doing continuous maintenance on the obstruction lights, and will keep them operational.

Member Haithcock states that it is time to upgrade the economic impact study as suggested through the airport association. He continues by stating that they are going to restructure the economic impact point of contact, which actually tells the stories of rural airports. Member Haithcock continues by stating that the road/bridge funding allocated through the DOT is still appropriated.

Member Haithcock states that the obstruction light by the "forest service house" utility pole is two feet too high, per the FAA.

Member Rhodes reports that a pilot who utilizes the airport has asked that two saplings located on the creek be removed. Mr. Phillips states he will ask maintenance to take care of this.

In connection to a potential PAPI system, Mr. Luther reports that John Walker of the FAA looked at every potential approach three years ago, and that it remains difficult, if not impossible to install this type of approach system at the Macon County Airport.

Mr. Collins reports that the attorney for the FBO, Orville Coward, intends to pass the needed lease changes to another attorney who has aviation experience and expertise. Mr. Collins has kept the DOA and the FAA informed of the progress.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Rhodes make a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Pete Haithcock, Secretary