

**MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 30TH, 2021**

The Macon County Airport Authority convenes for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 30th, 2021. All members with the exception of Member Haithcock are present. Also present are: Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner; Jimmy Luther, Project Engineer; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Lori Carpenter, Macon County Finance Director; David Phillips, airport FBO; Josh Bulla, airport FBO designee; Teresa McDowell, Clerk; and Dan Rogers, pilot and interested citizen. Chair Schmitt welcomes all present and calls the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 26TH, 2021: 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.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 AUDIT FINANCIAL STATEMENT: After a discussion, this agenda item is moved and is addressed at the beginning of the meeting. This presentation involves a ZOOM meeting. There are some difficulties accessing the meeting, but Aaron Little from Martin-Starnes is eventually accessed and reports that the indications of the statement are that the authority is in good shape financially, and there are no negative issues to address in the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Dan Rogers, a pilot, and business owner expresses his appreciation for the working condition of the obstruction lights surrounding the airport. He also presents information regarding his use and dependence on the airport. Mr. Rogers and his staff have worked to provide adversary radars which is used in place of military planes flying against each other. He states that his company has retrofitted close to sixty (60) jets and states that there is the potential to access up to 67 million dollars in contracts to continue to do the radar retrofitting. He continues by stating that he cannot operate without hangars for aircraft being available. He states that the airport is out of hangar space, and without hangar space, he will have to relocate to another location where hangar space can be obtained. He continues by stating he would need to know the status of additional hangar space by April of 2022. He explains that this radar project is classified, so the airplane cannot be left outside of a secure hangar. A T-hanger is not sufficient to meet the security criteria. The issue with construction of hangars is that DOA/FAA funding is not allowable in order to construct hangars. The authority responds by stating that they will request an audience with Caleb Whitby of the DOA regarding this issue. Chair Schmitt continues by stating that the airport does not want to lose Mr. Roger's support, and that they will research the potential construction of additional hangars, and pursue funding sources. Mr. Rogers states he will provide a letter regarding this issue, which will be forwarded to the DOA and that he will be going the "legislative route" if necessary. He states that he is operating within a tight deadline, and suggests a solution may be the teardown and redesign of the old hangar building. The hangar required should be 12,000 feet square and should include a sprinkle suppression system.

UPDATE ON MOA WITH THE EASTERN BAND: Project Engineer Jimmy Luther reports that he spoke with Caleb Whitby of the Division of Aviation this morning, and that there is no update on the MOA. He states that the FAA currently needs a compliance officer in order to continue with the review of the MOA. Member Horton reports that he has talked to Paul Webb, the architect on the environmental mitigation component of the runway in past years. Mr. Webb explained that in July 2008, there was a MOA developed to address any adverse environmental effects and how to deal with them on the area

designated as 31MA77. This MOA was enforced until July of 2013, when it expired. There are still a few outstanding items in connection to this site, including the handling of dog bones which were found at the site. It was determined by the FAA that a new MOA would need to be developed. The determination was that it would be more simple to develop a new MOA, rather than add to the existing one. There cannot be any additional construction at the airport until the new MOA is developed and signed. It is also required that an interpretation of any project that is developed has to be included in the ALP developed by the engineers. There is a continuation of the discussion to build hangars as noted above, and an issue which includes the perimeter fence encroachment. Commissioner Beale suggests that the status of the MOA should be determined first, and that the "through the fence" issues can be determined on a case by case basis. The authority will continue to make the development and signing of the MOA the first priority.

UPDATE ON DRAKE LEASE REVISION: Legal counsel Joe Collins reports that the lease is being reviewed but that there are no updates on the progress at this time.

ENGINEERS REPORT: Project Engineer Jimmy Luther reports that they have taken bids for the construction of the fuel farm. They received three (3) bids, two (2) of which were eligible. It is his recommendation that the bid from Browe Construction Company, with a bid amount of \$811,722 (for both the additive and construction phases of the project), be awarded the contract. After further discussion, Member Horton makes a motion to accept the engineer's report and award suggestion, and award the contract to Browe Construction Company as recommended. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Mr. Luther continues by stating that the DOA concurs with this recommendation as well. Mr. Luther also states that Amendment #4, which is not to exceed \$79,822.00 is included in the motion as noted above. He states that there is a preconstruction period of 35-45 days, and that the project should be completed in the Spring of 2022.

PRESENTATION REGARDING TEMPORARY HANGARS: Moved to "Public Comment" Session.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS: FBO Phillips states that he has been unable to access financial reports because of a change in the provider of the software to Drake Enterprises. This issue will hopefully be resolved in the very near future. Mr. Phillips did state that there is a balance of \$25,855.00 left in deferred maintenance.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Member Horton states that Bob Scott has some photographs he would like to present to the airport. He continues by stating that Mr. Scott can do that at the Christmas dinner.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Rhodes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haitcock, Secretary