

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Meeting Held on January 26th, 2021

The Macon County Airport holds its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Macon County Airport. All members are present. Also present are Ronnie Beale, Macon County Commissioner liaison; Joe Collins, Legal Counsel; Jake Tallent, FBO liaison; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk. Chair Schmitt welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 24TH, 2020: After a brief discussion, 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 COUNTY COMMISSIONER LIAISON, RONNIE BEALE: The authority welcomes Ronnie Beale as the newly appointed liaison to the airport, with Member Horton stating that Mr. Beale has always been a big supporter of the airport and the authority, with all other members agreeing with this statement. Member Horton continues by stating that he speaks for everyone when he says that the authority is very happy that Mr. Beale accepted this appointment. Mr. Beale responds by stating that he thinks the airport is very vital to Macon County and that he hopes to be of help. He continues by stating that land sales for September, October, and November have been excellent and this clientele will utilize the airport more and more. Member Rhodes states that there are many towns who would like to have an airport as nice as Macon County's.

FOLLOW UP REGARDING RELINQUISHMENT OF 2017 NPE FUNDING: There is a discussion regarding whether there has been any progress on the Memorandum of Agreement between the MCAA and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. There is not an update at this time. Therefore the relinquishment of the 2017 NPE funding has been taken care of with Ms. Carpenter, the finance director, having sent the necessary documentation to the Division of Aviation. The MCAA has done all that is necessary to relinquish the funding for use by Wilkes County. The funding should be restored at a future date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Collins states that he continues to work on the lease update, but has an issue with the attorney who resents Drake Enterprises, and that their input is necessary to complete this task. Mr. Collins summarizes the issue with the lease for Mr. Beale, stating that the FAA staff reviewed the lease and was not happy with it. They then forwarded a directive requiring that certain changes be made. Mr. Collins continues by stating that the existing lease was based on the lease already in place with the former FBO, and that at the time it was generated, these items were not necessary. Input from attorneys who are familiar with the Division of Aviation requirements is necessary and he has forwarded several names to Mr. Coward, the attorney for Drake Enterprises, as provided by the project engineer. He has not

received a response as of yet. Member Horton asks if Mr. Coward is aware that funding for the airport depends on the lease update. After further discussion, the authority determines Mr. Coward and Drake Enterprises should be informed of the importance of focusing on these lease requirements. After further discussion, Member Horton makes a motion to have Mr. Collins prepare a draft letter to be sent to Mr. Drake informing him of the importance of a response regarding these lease issues. The letter will be to Phil Drake, of Drake Enterprises from the Macon County Airport Authority. Member Rhodes seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

EBS updates are due by March 5th. These involve all future requests for next year and requires an electronic signature. This information will be forwarded to Project Engineer, Jimmy Luther.

The Risk Assessment Qualification from Brian Birch of the Department of Transportation will be forwarded to Greg Kershaw of W.K. Dickson.

Mr. Beale states that he is aware of the DOT project prioritization, and that the authority needs to start discussions regarding the runway extension funding which is to be awarded to the authority. There was an expected award date of July 7th, 2022, which date has now been extended to June 29th, 2023 and that the authority needs to start making preparations to obtain a county match if required. Mr. Beale continues by stating that it is important to be aware of the dates of July and August of 2021, which is when a letter from the commissioners stating that the required match is budgeted is necessary. Mr. Beale reports that he thinks the county should be prepared to provide 10-20% match, but that they are asking for 100% funding, and hopefully there will not be a match required. He continues by stating that he thinks the airport extension project is in "pretty good shape".

Mr. Beale reports that he has been approached by a person who utilizes the airport and who is interested in leasing the upstairs portion of the terminal building. The person is Bob Miller and he is in the aviation business, KR2R in Tennessee. He has multiple relationships with airports across the state. Mr. Miller has stated that he will provide an elevator and air conditioning along with other improvements in the unfinished upstairs space. He will also provide internet fiber to the airport and the school free of charge since he will have it installed for his offices. Mr. Collins suggests that this would probably work under the sublease but only if Drake Enterprises agrees with it. There is a discussion about relocating the airport authority files, with members thinking that the county has provided a storage space within the administration building. Ms. McDowell will check on the location of this proposed storage space. It is determined that a meeting should be scheduled with an authority member, Phil Drake and Bob Miller.

Member Haithcock states that the William Haughton Bridge road project did have a funding and completion date of August, 2022-2024, and inquires if Mr. Beale is aware of this. Mr. Beale states that he will research this matter and give a report at a future date. At this point Mr. Beale states that most of the DOT funding was awarded for safety related projects.

Mr. Tallent reports that there has been four (4) bids submitted for the repainting/roof repair of the hangar building. These bids include: pressure washing, painting of the outside, painting the roof white and patching some spots on the roof as needed: The bids are:

WNC:	\$67,609.00
LTG:	\$36,500.00
CLEAR CONCEPT:	\$19,350.00
TRINITY:	\$11,900.00

CLEVELAND of Blairsville, Georgia is also interested, but was not included on the first list because of “knock back” issues. There would have to be an acknowledgement modification allowance. Any of these contractors are available to start work once the weather is more decent, with warmer temperatures.

Member Rhodes suggests that DTM by Sherwin Williams or Zenzer “freefall paint” would be the suggested paint to use because it will not travel and it does not cost much more.

Member Horton suggests that the issues regarding the type of paint, etc. should be worked out with Member Rhodes and that the details of this project will be discussed at the next meeting.

Member Rhodes states that he thinks that there are two (2) major things needed at the airport, 1. A bigger ramp; and 2. Hangers.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Rhodes makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, MCAA Secretary