

**MACON COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**Minutes for the Meeting Held March 28, 2023**

The Macon County Airport Authority holds its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Macon County Airport. Members Horton, Haithcock and Shuler are present. Chair Schmitt is excused because of an out of town trip, and Member Rhodes is excused because he could not fly in because of inclement weather. Both are excused by Vice-Chair Horton who chairs the meeting. Member Rhodes participated in the meeting via a phone call. Also present at the meeting are: Stuart Sloan, Legal Counsel; Greg Kershaw, Project Engineer; Lori Carpenter, Finance Director; Gary Shields, County Commissioner; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk. Vice-Chair Horton calls the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2023:** After a brief discussion, Member Shuler makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE 6/30/2023 AUDIT CONTRACT:** Ms. Carpenter presents the contract for the audit with auditors Martin Starnes. She explains that there has been an audit fee increase. The fee has increased from \$5,250.00 to \$5,900.00. After further discussion, Member Haithcock makes a motion to approve the audit contract as presented. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** Mr. Kershaw states that the fuel farm project is proceeding successfully. There was a small issue with the electrical permit which has been corrected. The fuel will be delivered on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The fuel, 6000 gallons will need to “sit” in the tank for ten days to determine that there is no silt in the lines. Once the silt test is passed, the FBO will be responsible for the payment for the fuel. The project should be completed as far as billing out and closing all matters with the contractor within two months.

**UPDATE ON FINANCIALS:** No financial report is presented.

**DISCUSSION OF SPRING DINNER:** The planning for the dinner is proceeding and it is noted that the date for the dinner will be Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION OF SUB-LEASE WITH BOB MILLER:** It is discussed that the term of Mr. Miller’s lease matches the term of the FBO lease. Mr. Miller would like assurances built into the lease that allows him to continue the lease if the FBO determines that they will not renew their lease with the Macon County Airport Authority. After a discussion regarding the nature of the needed language, it is determined that Stuart Sloan will review and develop the appropriate language for the continuation of the Miller lease. After further discussion Member Haithcock makes a motion to approve the presented sub-lease between Drake Enterprises and the Macon County Airport Authority as written. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Member Haithcock and Macon County Finance Director, Lori Carpenter, state that the proposed FY 2023-2024 budget needs to be presented at the April meeting. After the budget is approved, the public hearing will be held in May or June of 2023.

The plaques honoring Bob Scott and Milles Gregory for their contribution to the airport are reviewed and approved. They will be presented at the Spring Appreciation Dinner.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Member Haithcock and Member Horton attended the NCAA Meeting and Mr. Haithcock presents a report regarding the information distributed. He states that the airport and aviation business continue to grow, and have become a very important economic tool in North Carolina. He continues by stating that the airport is directly or indirectly responsible for 100 jobs and \$6,487,000 in income. An information brochure regarding this information is distributed. A new process exhibited called a VirTower is discussed. There is Division of Aviation money available to install the software which provides a traffic count, along with other information through this system. It is a sophisticated system and the authority agrees that there is a need for this type program in Macon County.

The cameras at the airport are working.

There is a discussion regarding the aeronautics program which is being provided to high school students through the STEM program in Macon County. It is considered an excellent program. The authority would like to get more involved with this procedure.

Bobby Walston, who has been a big supporter of N.C. Airports is retiring. The authority wishes him well.

David Phillips, the airport manager through the FBO is retiring. He states he will no longer be the full time manager or full time with the FBO. The authority wishes him well and states that they have enjoyed working with him.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Haithcock makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Shuler seconds the motion which passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted:

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Pete Haithcock, Secretary