

**County Council of Beaufort County**  
**Hilton Head Island Airport – [www.hiltonheadairport.com](http://www.hiltonheadairport.com)**  
**Beaufort County Airport – [www.beaufortcoairport.com](http://www.beaufortcoairport.com)**  
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**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF OCTOBER 16, 2008**

The print media was notified in accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board was held at 1:30 PM on Thursday, October 16, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Chairman David Ames opened the meeting and noted that there was a quorum.

Mr. Ames read a statement recognizing John Curry's contributions to aviation and the Airports of Beaufort County. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Curry.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 16, 2008 agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 18, 2008 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MEMBERS**

David Ames-Chairman  
Pete Buchanan – Vice Chairman  
Anne Esposito  
Leonard Law  
Councilman Ken Heitzke – Town of Hilton  
Head Liaison  
Ross Sanders  
Jared Newman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilman Rick Caporale – Beaufort  
County Liaison  
Harvey Ewing  
Dan Lynch

**GUESTS**

Councilman Stu Rodman  
Joe Croley – Hilton Head Area Assoc. of Realtors  
Tim Donnelly – Island Packet  
Tom Thornberry – Resident  
Bill Bedford – Resident  
Will Dopp – Resident  
Jim Fisher – Resident  
Nick Esposito – Resident  
Mike Bennett – Signature Flight Support

**STAFF**

Paul Andres – Airport Director  
Larry Yeager, Chief of Operations  
Joel Phillips – Beaufort Co. Airport Supv.  
Linda Wright – Administrative Assistant

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS** – Guests attending the meeting introduced themselves.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Jim Fisher – Mr. Fisher stated they were unable to hear the statement of recognition concerning Mr. Curry, but the fact that it was read was very much appreciated. Mr. Fisher asked for an update on any work being done to give support to the commercial airlines. He also wanted to know the status of the Community Relations Committee. Mr. Ames stated that the Community Relations Committee was on hold pending outcome of the Aviation Advisory Board Charter revisions and that Mr. Andres would address the topic of the commercial carriers at the appropriate time during the meeting.

## **HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT**

1. Tower Report: Paul Andres
  - For the month of September 2008 there were 2,987 total flight operations of which 1,833 were conducted under IFR procedures. There were 30 after hours flights included in the total.
2. Operations Report: Chief Yeager
  - There was one in-flight emergency involving US Air with smoke in the cockpit. The aircraft landed without incident.
  - One inbound US Army Black Hawk helicopter landed safely with one engine out.
  - There were five medivacs for the month of September.
3. Noise Complaints & Traffic Counters: Chief Yeager
  - There were four noise complaints for the month of September due to Mosquito Control flights. Mosquito Control will be flying again October 18 – 24 so we can expect additional calls.
4. Projects: Paul Andres
  - Before giving an update on the projects, Mr. Andres commented on the article in the Island Packet about a single engine aircraft that went down in the Bluffton area. He stated the people onboard were treated and released at a local hospital. He stated the aircraft sustained substantial damage. He further stated the aircraft was enroute to the Hilton Head Airport, but was still under the control of the Savannah Air Traffic Control facility.
  - Mr. Andres stated a stakeholders' meeting for the tree obstruction project regarding the tree problems on the North end of the Airport was held September 24<sup>th</sup>. He stated the Town's staff has requested detailed tree survey data. He stated they have most of the off-airport survey data, but they are lacking on-airport survey data because of the density of the trees.
  - Mr. Andres stated the bids for the plant back process for the South end of the Airport will be opened at 3:00 pm today.
  - The emergency generator project is still on hold. The Town has asked that the landscaping plans be revised again before presenting them to the Design Review Board. Mr. Andres stated the revised plans have been submitted.
  - The architect and consultant presented Mr. Andres and Chief Yeager with the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Station conceptual drawings this past week. These drawings have been submitted to the Town's Design Review Board for their consideration and comments.
  - Mr. Andres stated that all of the other projects for the Hilton Head Airport are currently underway. These projects include designs of: improvements to the passenger terminal, replacement of joint material on the air carrier aprons and

drainage improvements on the runway safety area on the North end of the Airport. Mr. Andres stated they are now dealing directly with the South Carolina Division of Aeronautics to paint the enhanced centerline taxiway markings.

- Mr. Newman requested an update on the blast pads. Mr. Andres stated this situation is an ongoing maintenance problem. He stated they do not have a long term permanent solution for the erosion at this point. He stated the main cost is the additional manhours needed to backfill the eroding soil.

## **BEAUFORT COUNTY AIRPORT REPORT**

### **1. Fuel Sales: Joel Phillips**

- For the month of September the total fuel sales were 7,971 gallons (4,358 gallons of AvGas and 3,613 gallons of jet fuel) compared to 11,678 gallons for the same time period last year. He stated that total operations were approximately 1,180 for the month.

### **2. Projects: Paul Andres**

- Mr. Andres reminded the members that the work on the tree obstruction removal project had been suspended due to concerns about damage to non-obstructive trees and other vegetation. He stated he has had numerous meetings with the contractor and they have prepared revised procedures and processes to address the remaining trees. Mr. Andres stated that he is satisfied that the contractor is taking the best approach, but he will be watching them closely. He concluded by stating the plant back bids for this project are due at 3:00 pm today.
- The Mosquito Control hangar should be completed sometime in December.
- The inventory and forecast chapters have been reviewed for the Master Plan and sent to the FAA for their review and approval. Mr. Andres stated the advisory committee for the Master Plan is still looking over information in an effort to make a determination of the critical design aircraft that will be used for the Master Plan.
- Mr. Andres stated the County's survey crew is currently obtaining survey data for the runway overlay, runway end identifier lighting system and the rotating beacon and wind cone replacement project.
- Mr. Buchanan stated there was a bond issued for \$700,000 to build the hangars at Lady's Island, but the hangars were built for less than that. He wanted to know if any of that money was transferred over to Mosquito Control to build their hangar. Mr. Andres stated it was possible, but he was not certain.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Finance and Lady's Island Facilities: Pete Buchanan**

- Mr. Buchanan stated that for the first quarter both Airports ended positive. He stated Hilton Head Airport made \$126,000 and Lady's Island made \$43,000. He stated that given the economy this was good and the people responsible for it deserve a lot of credit.
- Mr. Buchanan stated the hangars at Hilton Head were funded with bonds in the amount of \$1.8 million. He stated there was an overrun of approximately \$125,000 or \$225,000. He continued by stating the County hired a financial consultant who charged \$25,000 to determine appropriate hangar rental rates. Mr. Buchanan stated the Hilton Head Airport receives no value for these hangars because the income goes directly to the County. He requested the Airport Administration transfer the hangars over to the County and that the revenues

taken from the Airport Enterprise Fund and given to the General Fund be transferred back to the Aviation Enterprise Fund.

**A motion was made and seconded that the Aviation Advisory Board recommend County Council instruct staff to return to the Aviation Enterprise Fund monies taken from the Aviation Enterprise Fund to pay for the hangars and the consultant retained to recommend hangar rents at Hilton Head.**

**After an open discussion, a motion was made and seconded to table the previous motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Andres added that there have been ongoing discussions with staff regarding Airport financial matters. He stated the Finance Department is in the process of preparing detailed breakdown information. Councilman Stu Rodman stated it is on the agenda for Monday's Finance Committee and the line item is the reclassification of the \$2 million owed to the General Fund.

2. Hilton Head Island Airport Facilities: Anne Esposito
  - Ms. Esposito stated she would not have a report until the budget is finalized.
  - Mr. Andres stated he and staff prepared a revised operating budget and has submitted it to the Finance Department. He stated that with the suspension of services by Delta at the end of November and with the expectation it will resume in the Spring, they have reworked the budget to absorb the loss of revenue during this time.
3. External Affairs: No Report
4. Community Relations Committee (CRC) Reports: David Ames
  - Mr. Ames stated it appears the County Council's ultimate decision is that the Community Relations Committee, as it is formed now, would be discontinued.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Hilton Head Island Airport Master Plan Study: Paul Andres
  - Mr. Andres stated the selection committee met recently with the consultants to go over their proposed scope of work and fee schedule. He stated he will be meeting with the County Administrator in the morning to discuss the outcome of that meeting.
2. Signature Hangar Proposal: Paul Andres
  - Mr. Andres stated that Mr. Mike Bennett of Signature Flight Support had informed him they are still gathering information to give to County Council for their consideration regarding this proposal.
3. 5-Year AIP Plans: Paul Andres
  - Mr. Andres stated these plans for both Airports were presented to the Public Services Committee on Tuesday afternoon. He stated the Committee has decided to hold action on the plans in abeyance pending opportunity to further revise and refine the cost estimates. They hope to be able to present this to County Council by the end of December.
4. Aircraft Property Tax Rates: Paul Andres
  - Mr. Andres stated this agenda item has been forwarded to the Finance Committee

for their consideration.

5. AAB Charter Revisions: David Ames

- Mr. Ames stated there seems to be a distinct difference between what Councilman Caporale and the Aviation Advisory Board consider the role of the Aviation Advisory Board should be. He stated the Aviation Advisory Board feels the Board is a resource to the County and the Airport Director whereas Councilman Caporale's proposal puts a great deal of emphasis on what the community feels is important to the Airport. He stated it will be up to the County Council to decide what will be most beneficial for sustaining and improving the Airports.
- Ms. Esposito expressed her concern regarding the word "balanced". She stated the Aviation Advisory Board is currently diverse, but they are civic and community minded as well as supportive of the Airport. She stated the Airport is an economic necessity for the community it serves.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Paul Andres – In answer to Mr. Fisher's earlier question concerning the status of discussions with the commercial airlines, Mr. Andres stated that he and the County Administrator have met with the local representatives of the airlines. He stated they are still in the process of scheduling a meeting with the senior executives of the airlines.
2. Nick Esposito – Mr. Esposito commended Mr. Ames for his comments on Mr. Curry. He stated Mr. Curry was a strong supporter of the Airport and will be greatly missed. Mr. Esposito read a letter expressing his opinions of the actions and discussions at the Public Services meeting concerning the Aviation Advisory Board Charter revisions.
3. Jim Fisher – Mr. Fisher wanted to know whether the Aviation Advisory Board or the County Council controls the Community Relation Committee and whether the CRC would be meeting next month. Mr. Ames responded by stating he has not heard anyone from the CRC, Aviation Advisory Board or the County Council say that the CRC should continue.
4. Ken Heitzke – Councilman Heitzke stated his opinion on the word "balanced". He stated he felt the needs, wants and desires of the Airport should be balanced with what the impact is in regards to the health, safety and welfare of the people living near the Airport.

Mr. Newman asked that Mr. Ames' recognition of Mr. Curry be added to the minutes. Mr. Ames also requested that it be posted temporarily to the Hilton Head Airport website.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:25 PM.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Aviation Advisory Board: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

Hilton Head Island Airport Community Relations Committee: Postponed until further notice.

Beaufort County Airport Community Relations Committee: Postponed until further notice.

The Aviation Advisory Board would like to recognize John Curry's singular contributions to aviation and the airports of Beaufort County. He played a pivotal role in sustaining and improving the airports and commercial operations for over 30 years – first as one of the three members of Hilton Head Island Airport Company, then as a member of the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board where he served as chairman also as a member of the Civil Air Patrol and for a time, as trustee of Hilton Head Holdings, which impacted fixed base operations.

Some will remember him as a lightning rod for public criticism of the airports because of his unfailing and outspoken advocacy of the airports and their importance to the County's economy.

However, more will remember him for his passion for flying and his unselfish commitment of time and resources to aviation. He deserves our gratitude for this. He died with unfinished business, but left the County to remember his fine legacy and countless contributions to the Hilton Head Island and Lady's Island Airports.

I would like the record to show the Aviation Advisory Board's proud appreciation for his advocacy and leadership over the years.

He will be missed.