

AIRPORTS BOARD

June 20, 2013

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Accordance with the State Freedom of Information Act

Notification: To view video of full discussion of this meeting please visit
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The Airports Board met on Thursday June 20, 2013 at 1:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center. Chairman Buchanan called the meeting to order and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Airports Board Members: Chairman Pete Buchanan, Graham Kerr, Will Dopp, Ron Smetek, Al Spain, Derek Gilbert, Mike Nash, Rich Sells, Councilman John McCann – Town of Hilton Head Island Liaison, and Councilman Stu Rodman – Beaufort County Liaison. (Absent: Vice Chairman Joe Mazzei, Ross Sanders, and Carl Wedler).

County Staff: Gary Kubic, County Administrator; Bryan Hill, Assistant County Administrator; Rob McFee, Director, Engineering and Infrastructure; Josh Gruber, County Attorney; Alicia Holland, County Controller; Joel Phillips, Beaufort County Airport Supervisor; Larry Yeager, Hilton Head Island Chief of Operations; and Linda Wright, Administrative Assistant.

Public: Judy Elder, Talbert & Bright; Clifton Yates, Resident; Bob Wallhaus, Resident; Bob Richardson, Resident; Leo Brennan, Resident; Joe Zimmerman, Resident; and Brian Hefferman, Island Packet.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Kerr, seconded by Mr. Smetek that the June 20, 2013 agenda be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, and Mr. Nash. AGAINST – None. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Wedler. (ARRIVED LATE/ABSENT FOR VOTE: Mr. Sells.)

MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Smetek, seconded by Mr. Gilbert that the May 16, 2013 minutes be approved. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, and Mr. Nash. AGAINST – None. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Wedler. (ARRIVED LATE/ABSENT FOR VOTE: Mr. Sells.)

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Bob Wallhaus, Resident – Mr. Wallhaus stated he had done an analysis of why it is not feasible to attract another airline. He stated his full analysis can be obtained by emailing him at rwallhaus@gmail.com. He also stated it is a high risk to count on the Passenger Facility Charge for renovations of the Airport.

AIRPORTS FINANCIALS

Alicia Holland updated the Board on the financial summary for both Airports. The Board discussed various aspects of the report with Ms. Holland.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Buchanan suggested the Board meet every other month. County Attorney Josh Gruber stated this could be done, but the charter would have to be amended. Mr. Smetek also suggested the meetings alternate between Beaufort and Hilton Head Island.

Mr. Buchanan stated there have been some questions about who the Board represents. Mr. Smetek stated it was his understanding that the Board members that were selected for being in close proximity to the Airport are to represent the communities around the Airport. Mr. Gruber stated that close proximity to the Airport is one of the classifications, but that the powers and duties of the Board are to provide advice and recommendations to County Council. He stated a member on the Board selected for close proximity will ensure there is open communications with the communities, but when it comes to actual advocacy the member's role on the Board is to advocate for the Airport and the Board itself. Mr. Smetek disagreed.

Mr. Buchanan urged the County Council to move forward with the Lady's Island Airport Master Plan in order to build hangars for additional revenue.

Mr. Buchanan asked Mr. Spain to speak on the possible outcome of adding an additional airline at the Hilton Head Island Airport. Mr. Spain stated the numbers would go back to what they were before Delta terminated service. He stated the turboprop equipment is driven by fuel prices. Mr. Spain stated there is the potential that another airline with either the ATR or Q400 may see there is a market here.

LADY'S ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Mr. Phillips reported on the fuel sales and operations for the Lady's Island Airport for May. He stated the numbers are down by approximately 2% from this time last year mainly due to jet fuel sales.

Mr. McFee stated there are 4 aviation easements remaining. He stated it is up to County Council to take action on the Master Plan. He said improvements to the restrooms and to the skylight are underway.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND AIRPORT REPORT

Chief Yeager gave the tower and operations reports as well as the noise complaints for May.

Mr. McFee stated there is no change in status of the tree removal on the North end. He stated we do have 9 of 17 avigation easements on the North end and 24 out of 25 on the South end. He stated that in regards to the Phase I Airport Improvements, we are waiting on a completed report concerning the archaeological data. Mr. McFee stated the commercial terminal improvements Phase I design will be completed by the end of June. He said we are still waiting on a Modification of Standards from the FAA regarding the runway lighted sign replacement.

Mr. Dopp asked about the St. James Baptist Church appeal. Mr. Gruber stated their appeal has been dismissed by the court for lack of prosecution. A discussion was then held concerning the Town's LMO and permits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lady's Island Airport Operations – Graham Kerr – No Report
2. Hilton Head Island Airport Operations – Will Dopp

Mr. Dopp stated the movements are down 11% and passenger count is down by 6% compared to last year. He stated the County received \$100,000 from Signature Flight Support which is about the same as compared to last year even though Signature's revenue is down. Mr. Dopp stated Republic Parking is up by 3%.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lady's Island Terminal and Hangar Improvements – Joel Phillips

Mr. Phillips stated they should have a scope of work for the remodeling of the restrooms by the end of the month and it should be ready to go to bid in 30 to 45 days. He stated he has met with the fire marshal in regards to using a hangar for commercial aircraft maintenance. He said there should be no need for structural changes to any of hangars or to have fire suppression systems installed, but there will have to be rules as to what type of maintenance can be done inside the hangar.

Mr. Phillips informed the Board about the SC Aeronautics Association's ambassadors program.

2. Hilton Head Island Airport Terminal Improvements – Judy Elder

Ms. Elder updated the Board on the terminal improvements project which will be done in three phases. She stated they are currently in Phase I which involves the restrooms and the hold room.

3. Hangar Rental Rates of Hilton Head Island Airport – Rob McFee

Mr. McFee requested a 5% increase in the hangar rental rates at the Hilton Head Island Airport. A discussion was held following the motion.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Sells, seconded by Mr. Dopp that the hangar rental rates at the Hilton Head Island Airport be increased by 5%. The vote was: FOR – Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Dopp, Mr. Spain, Mr. Smetek, Mr. Gilbert, and Mr. Sells. AGAINST – Mr. Nash. ABSENT – Mr. Mazzei, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Wedler.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

1. Bob Richardson – Mr. Richardson wanted to know if the terminal renovations and expansion was part of Phase I or Phase II of the Airport Master Plan. He also wanted to know how many additional airlines were being considered for the Airport and if the schedule of the phasing for the expansion and supporting documents would be posted on the Airport website.
2. Bob Wallhaus – Mr. Wallhaus gave his email address again for anyone wanting a copy of his analysis. Mr. Smetek requested a copy be sent to him to be entered into the record.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Airports Board meeting will be Thursday July 18, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the County Council Chambers of the Beaufort County Government Center.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:45 p.m.