

MINUTES
LAURENS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Commissioners Present- Chairman George S. Wham and Commissioners Dickie Patterson, Rick Snipes, Bob Harrington, Tim Hill, John Mitchell, and Ernie Segars

Staff Present- Bud Boyter, Airport Manager

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chairman Wham called the February 6, 2017 meeting of the Laurens County Airport Commission to order at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Airport Terminal. The Commission agreed by consensus to approve the Agenda for the February 6, 2017 meeting. On a motion by Mr. Patterson and a second by Mr. Snipes, the Commission agreed unanimously to approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2016 meeting of the Commission, with one correction. At the meeting on December 5, 2016, Airport Manager Boyter discussed the repair of one fuel nozzle, rather than two. Chairman Wham agreed to correct the Minutes of that meeting.

Airport Project

Pavement Rehab Project Phase 2-Taxiway- Chairman Wham said that the Commission has received a reimbursement of \$49,407.62 from federal sources for the first payment for engineering services for the project. McCarthy Improvement Co., the contractor for the project, was scheduled to begin the project on October 31, 2016. However, because of problems with sub-contractors, work on the project will begin on March 1, 2017.

In a related matter, Chairman Wham said that plans are underway for the next phase of paving improvements at the airport, which will include the repaving of the terminal parking lot and the area between the parking lot and the ramp. This project will cost an estimated \$264,500 and the Commission will utilize FY 2017 and FY 2018 FAA funding allotments (\$150,000 each year) to complete the project. The Commission will need an advance from Laurens County of \$88,050 to complete the project. However, the Commission will be able to reimburse the county those funds when the FY 2018 FAA grant becomes available.

FY 2018-2022 Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) - Chairman Wham said that he had appeared before Laurens County Council at a December, 2016 meeting of Council to receive approval for the referenced plan. He reported that Council approved the ACIP unanimously and a copy of the plan is included as part of these Minutes.

SCAC Annual Inspection

Tree Removal in Approaches- Chairman Wham reported that the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission has used drone technology to review obstructions to the approaches to the airport. The inspection revealed that a relatively large group of trees on the Runway 26 approach area of the airport should be removed.

County staff has conferred with the property owner of the trees and the owner requested that the county hire a surveyor who can provide precise information as to the actual area where the trees that need to be removed. That survey has been completed and the County staff is seeking a price from a professional logger for the removal of the trees. Several trees were also identified for removal on the Runway 08 approach area of the airport and county crews are proceeding with the removal of those trees.

Chairman Wham reported that an official of the State Aeronautics Commission has recommended that trees located on the south side of the airport property be removed to allow for better visibility and use for the airport windsock. County staff is seeking a price for the removal of approximately 10 acres of trees in that location.

Airport Operations

Airport Manager Boyter reported that all hangars at the airport are currently being utilized. He also reported a roof leak at the "big hangar" and that leak will be repaired shortly.

Mr. Boyter said that a water heater had to be replaced in the terminal building. The airport has also purchased a load of fuel and the price per gallon has increased. The price at the pump was increased to \$4.07 due to the increased price from the dealer.

Mr. Boyter also discussed possible assistance from the Laurens County Airport to local FFA and 4-H groups in a fundraiser for a new agricultural exhibition building. Mr. Boyter is also continuing to look at reasonable means to provide soft drinks for patrons of the county airport.

Hangar Rental Rates

Commissioners Harrington and Patterson were assigned the task of checking into the current rental rates for hangars at the Laurens County Airport. Following a discussion, Commissioner Segars offered a motion to increase our price by 10% and Commissioner Hill offered a second at amending Hangar Rental Rates in the following manner"

- a.) The monthly rate for the "new hangars" will be increased to \$175.
- b.) The monthly rent for the "old" enclosed hangars will be increased to \$110.
- c.) The monthly rent for the "open" hangars will remain at \$75.
- d.) The monthly rent for the three spaces in the maintenance hangar will be increased to \$110 per space.

The Commission approved the rate adjustments by a unanimous vote. The new rates will take effect on May 1, 2017

In another matter, the Commission requested that the Airport Manager deal directly with an airplane owner/pilot who is not adhering to airport safety guidelines related to hangar use. On a motion by Commissioner Harrington and a second by Commissioner Patterson, the Commission agreed on a unanimous vote to allow the Airport Manager to purchase a "battery box" to assist pilots in starting their airplanes.

Membership in the South Carolina Aviation Association

On a motion by Commissioner Segars and a second by Commissioner Snipes, the Commission agreed unanimously for the Laurens County Airport to join the South Carolina Aviation Association. Cost for the membership is approximately \$250 annually.

New Business- Purchase of a John Deere "Gator"

On a motion by Commissioner Segars and a second by Commissioner Hill, the Commission agreed on a unanimous vote to authorize the purchase of the referenced piece of equipment. The motion also stipulated that the price of the machine would not exceed \$7,000. Chairman Wham pointed out that the Commission would not have to seek competitive bids for the purchase, since it is already included on the approved state purchasing list.

The Commission's next meeting will be on Monday, April 3, 2017. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest B. Segars

Commissioner