

**LAURENS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER, 9, 2019
6 P.M. - AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING**

Members Present: - Richard Snipes, Chairman; Richard Patterson, Vice-Chairman; Robert Harrington, Treasurer; Ernest Segars, Secretary; and George S. Wham

Guests Present: - Brooks Moss, representing a local aviation business

Chairman Richard Snipes called the December 9, 2019 meeting of the Laurens County Airport Commission (LCAC) to order at 6 pm.

Approval of Agenda: - On a motion by Mr. Segars and a second by Mr. Wham, the Commission approved the agenda on a unanimous vote (5-0).

Approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 2019 Meeting of the LCAC: - On a motion by Mr. Wham and a second by Mr. Harrington, the Commission approved the referenced Minutes of a unanimous vote (5-0).

Financial Reports

The Commission acknowledged the several financial reports provided in the agenda packet and agreed by consensus that the Commission's finances are in good order.

Chairman Snipes reported that LCAC has a Certificate of Deposit (CD) on deposit with a investment institution that will mature soon. The current value of the CD is \$101,107.10. The chairman said that he will confer with a representative of the investment firm to determine current interest rates and other information. Future disposition of the CD will be based on that consultation but the chairman said he will likely renew the CD with the current firm.

OLD BUSINESS

Airport Layout Plan Update (Terminal Area Plan) /New Terminal Building (ACIP): - Mr. Wham reported that he and two other members of the LCAC- Chairman Snipes and Secretary Segars- recently visited the Colleton County Airport near Walterboro, SC and toured a recently completed terminal building. Colleton County utilized funds generated through the Capital Sales Tax program to construct the \$2.3 million facility. The Colleton County structure is approximately 5,600 square feet or about twice the size of a new terminal that has been discussed for Laurens County.

LCAC discussed the upcoming Capital Sales Tax referendum that will be held in Laurens County in November, 2020. LCAC has previously discussed submitting an application to the recently-formed Laurens County Capital Sales Tax Commission to obtain a portion of the funding for the projected \$1.3 million facility. Based on a conversation with the Laurens County

Administration, LCAC will proceed with the submission of that application to the Sales Tax Commission early in 2020. Detailed engineering information will not be required with the initial submission but LCAC has received a proposal from Michael Baker Company, consulting engineers, for more detailed construction and site information should such information be required later in the process. The cost of that proposal from the Baker Company totals \$18,959.

Proposed Construction of Additional Hangars for an Aviation Business at the Laurens County Airport: - Previously, LCAC has discussed a proposal for the construction of additional hangar space, primarily to serve an aviation business operated by Michael Leighton. Brooks Moss, a representative of Mr. Leighton, attended the LCAC meeting and had further discussion of that issue.

LCAC, with the assistance of the Michael Baker Company, has submitted a proposal to Laurens County Council and Laurens County Administration for an updated Airport Layout Plan that will identify the best location(s) for new hangars. Laurens County Council has tentatively approved the allocation of approximately \$22,000 in county budgetary funds assigned to LCAC to pay for the plan update. Laurens County administration must execute a work authorization agreement with Michael Baker before that planning project can proceed. That agreement should be completed shortly and the Baker Company should be able to complete the plan update within weeks.

LCAC has discussed with Mr. Leighton preliminary financial strategies with Mr. Leighton for financing the proposed hangars, should the project proceed. Mr. Wham recommended that LCAC should receive the updated planning document, which will provide options for location of the hangars before making any decisions on project funding.

Location of a Jet-A Fuel System at the Laurens County Airport: - Mr. Wham reported that, during the trip to Colleton County to visit the new terminal, LCAC's three-member delegation also visited the Hampton County Airport to inspect a Jet-A fuel system installed during the last several months at that airport. LCAC has discussed the feasibility of installing a Jet-A system at the Laurens County Airport but there are questions about the cost and use of such a system at the Laurens County Airport. Ms. Moss, the representative of the Leighton aviation business, said that her company would not require a Jet-A system to relocate additional planes at the Laurens County facility.

Based on that information, LCAC agreed to discuss and review further any plans for the installation of Jet- A at the Laurens County Airport

Other Business

On a motion by Mr. Wham and a second by Mr. Segars, LCAC agreed on unanimous vote (5-0) to donate \$150 to the local Boy Scout troop for their service during a Breakfast Club fly-in at the Laurens County Airport in September, 2019.

On a motion by Mr. Wham and a second by Mr. Harrington, LCAC agreed on a unanimous vote (5-0) to approve a \$100 Christmas bonus for the manager of the Laurens County Airport and a \$50 Christmas bonus for the person who operates the facility on the weekend.

LCAC also discussed participation in the Annual Conference of the South Carolina Aviation Association that will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC in February, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest B, Segars, Secretary
Laurens County Airport Commission