

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
February 11, 2021
10:00 AM

Members Present: Andrew Zuerner, Randy Dowling, Nancy McMichael, Ronnie Pendergrass, Lynda Dawson, Jim Woods, Phil Eberly. Member Absent: Kim Tharp. Also in attendance: Andy Kober (Pine Mountain Fire Department), Jim Trott (Mayor of Pine Mountain), Whitney Eberly (Lead Edge Design Group).

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Zuerner called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of March 12, 2020 Regular meeting and the October 28, 2020 Called meeting, was made by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Pendergrass, and passed unanimously. (There were no meetings in April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November or December 2020 and January 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.)
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Airport Fire/Crash Truck.** Mr. Dowling said the fire/crash/foam truck at the Airport has been discussed a few times and a recommendation from the Airport Committee is needed as to whether to keep the truck, which will require the construction of a shelter of approximately \$250,000 or to dispose of the truck. He said that the truck has not been used during the six years it has been owned by the County, and that it is managed by the Pine Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. Following discussion, which included that having a fire truck at the Airport is not a requirement for this airport; that funds should not be spent on housing the truck; and that the truck should be offered to one of the local volunteer fire departments or sold, the motion to recommend that the truck be removed from the Airport and disposed of either by transferring to one of the local volunteer fire departments or according to County policies was made by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Eberly, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Budget.** Mr. Dowling said that budget preparation starts in March and asked for suggestions of projects to be included for the Airport. Discussion included that past projects included the crack seal and marking of the taxiway, new fuel system, new flag pole, and new directional sign, among others. Discussion included increasing the monthly rental fees for the hangars from \$215 to \$290 for the jumbo hangars and from \$165 to \$200 for the regular hangars; that any hangar agreements are to run from July to June, not January to December; and that the runway extension will require a justification study, and the whole project could take from 1 to 5 years. Following discussion, Mr. Dowling said that the runway extension justification study will be included in the budget and asked committee members to contact him with any other budget suggestions.
 - B. **New Hangars.** Mr. Dowling said that the Board of Commissioners is looking at low-interest loans for various County projects; that the rate is below 1%; and that payback of the loan is over a 20 year period; that among the projects being considered are courthouse renovations, new administration building, and new T-hangars at the Airport. Discussion included that the Airport is number 46 on the ranking list of 96 airports and shows there are 23 planes, as reported to the FAA, based at the Airport (a later physical count resulted in there being 32 planes based at the Airport); that there are about 25 people on the waiting list for hangars; that the Airport layout is conducive to adding hangars to the west, beyond the corporate hangars. Following discussion, Mr. Eberly, airport consultant, recommended that two hangars, to include design, asphalt, site prep, etc., be constructed at an approximate cost of \$2,500,000; that design would take a month, bidding would take 30 days, following bid award it would take 4 months to get the steel needed for construction, during which time the site work and foundation would take place, then followed by construction, which would take several months. The motion to recommend that the construction of two Airport

hangars be included in the projects being considered by the Commissioners was made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Open House/Fly In Event 2021**. Discussion regarding an Open House/Fly In Event for 2021 resulted in the consensus that if such an event occurs this year, it should be in October.
- 5. **NEXT MEETING**. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 9:30 AM at the Community Center or Library.
- 6. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Zuerner adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by: Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk

Minutes approved _____
by vote of _____ to _____.