

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
March 11, 2021
9:30 AM

Members Present: Andrew Zuerner, Randy Dowling, Nancy McMichael, Ronnie Pendergrass, Lynda Dawson, Jim Woods, Phil Eberly, Kim Tharp (arrived late). Also in attendance: Daniel Ferrone (Pine Mountain Police Department).

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Zuerner called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2021 Regular meeting was made by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Pendergrass, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Airport Fire/Crash Truck.** Mr. Dowling said that the volunteer fire departments were contacted about obtaining ownership of the fire/crash/foam truck that is used at the Airport and owned by the County; that Pine Mountain VFD has indicated it would like to take ownership of the truck; and the Board of Commissioners will be taking action on same during their March 16 meeting.
 - B. **Budget Concerns.** Mr. Dowling said that under the CARES Act, the Airport received \$30,000 last year, and the Board approved, on March 2, an application to receive an additional \$13,000. He asked for suggestions of Airport projects.
 - (1) **Hangars.** Mrs. Dawson suggested that hangars be included, which resulted in discussion regarding renovation and construction projects with very low interest rate funding that requires action by the State Legislature to amend the wording of the Public Improvements Authority language, as it was originally very narrowly written, but things don't look positive. He said that Plan B is to possibly borrow funds at a slightly higher interest rate and incorporate into next year's budget. Mr. Eberly distributed and explained information regarding revenue to be derived from additional hangars. He also said that there are actually 36 based aircraft at the Airport, which increases funding leverage.
 - (2) **Freight.** Mr. Pendergrass said that he would like to add freight work (to unload from planes using a forklift and loading onto trucks), which is done at the LaGrange Airport, for six months to see if it could be successful; that we can offer cheaper fuel rates, cheaper forklift rates, and cheaper labor, even though it would be about 10 miles further for the freight truck to drive; that he did such work at the LaGrange Airport; and that the freight planes would come in during the evening for which he would have received ample notice in order to be on hand for unloading. Following discussion, Mr. Pendergrass said that he would contact various freight companies to see if there would be any interest in landing at our Airport. Mr. Zuerner asked that information be obtained regarding liability insurance rates for such.
 - C. **Open House/Fly In Event for 2021.** Consensus was to have the event on October 9. Mrs. Dawson and Ms. Tharp will start making calls regarding other events in the area around the same time to avoid conflicts.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Revised Fee Schedule.** Mr. Dowling reviewed the fee schedule for various rentals at the Airport to include an increase in ramp fees (currently no charge to \$50 or \$100/day depending on the size of the jet, which would be waived if fuel is purchased), and in hangar rental from \$165 to \$190 (small hangar), from \$215 to \$270 (large hangar). Following discussion, the motion to recommend the proposed fee increases was made by Ms. Tharp, seconded by Mrs. Dawson, and passed unanimously.

5. **NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be Thursday, April 8, 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 _____.