

HARRIS COUNTY AIRPORT COMMITTEE
July 14, 2016
10:00 AM

Members Present: Harry Lange, Bill Champion, Jim Woods, Nancy McMichael, Lynda Dawson, Jayson Johnston, Amanda Hill, (via telephone). Absent: Jack Mayfield. Also in attendance: Jimmy Carver, EMS Chief; Andy Kober, news reporter and volunteer firefighter.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Lange called the meeting to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2016, was made by Mrs. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Johnston, and passed unanimously.

3. **DISCUSSIONS**

A. **Status of Projects.** Amanda Hill was asked to review the various projects, as follows:

(1) **Taxiway.** 99.9% complete; there's grass in a few spots; needs a little cleanup; and she is going through the paperwork to submit to GDOT and should be able to close out the contract within the next month. She noted that retainage should not be paid until contract is closed out.

(2) **Hangar Area.** Couple of items to be completed by Alexander to include the asphalt to the left of the hangar; and the schedule regarding same should be finished by Monday or Tuesday.

(3) **Hangars.** Close to resolving the flooring issues with BM&K, and if not, the County may have to hire another firm to completed the work.

B. **T-Hangars.** Mr. Champion reported that sheet metal had to be replaced and in doing so, a security light was removed, but as of yesterday, the light had not yet been replaced. Ms. Hill will find out about the light.

C. **Donated Land.** Ms. Hill said that she will prepare the documents regarding the land acquisitions for the Airport that have taken place over the years; that same will be useful with the next FAA/DOT project as the donated value of the land would be considered the local share.

D. **Hangar Floors.** Mr. Lange said that the County Attorney is close to moving ahead with sending the next letter to BM&K regarding the issues with the hangar floor; that the County does not want a patched area, but wants the flooring to look new.

E. **Display Case in Terminal.** Mr. Champion expressed his concerns about the items placed in the display case in the terminal by businesses of Pine Mountain. Mrs. Dawson said that the conversation with tourism and businesses was only about having brochures. Mr. Champion said that he is not comfortable with the items mainly because they are not secure. Mrs. McMichael commented that Mr. Champion should determine what can or cannot be displayed. There were no objections to that suggestion.

F. **Sheds Near Fuel Farm.** Mr. Champion said that information on emergency clean up has been posted; that a trash can is needed in the shed; that by August 25 there needs to be in place an FAA emergency plan regarding massive spills to include how to contain the spill and how to take care of the groundwater run off; that the information was provided to Jack Mayfield (Pond & Company) but nothing has been produced as of yet. Ms. Hill is to look into this issue.

- G. **Airport Needs.** Mr. Champion reiterated the need for a jet fuel truck, as well as a sweeper and an auxiliary power unit of 12/20 volts. It was suggested that in addition to military surplus that the Georgia Forestry be contacted.
- H. **Hangar Occupancy.** Mr. Champion reported that he has one hangar; that when Ben Baker moves into the larger hangar, that will free up two hangars; that he likes to keep one hangar open for overnight parking; and that Mr. Baker is anxious to move into his hangar.
- I. **Georgia Airport Association Conference.** Mr. Champion said that he plans to attend the Georgia Airport Association Conference that will be held in October in Jekyll Island; and that the cost for same was included in his budget.
- J. **Parking/Tie Downs.** Mr. Champion said that he had received two quotes for parking of aircraft on the east apron side that range from \$770,000 to almost \$1,000,000 for 35 spaces. Discussion included that the County needs to do its due diligence regarding the cost then decide what to do, when to do it and whether to bid it out; that the GDOT specs for such parking is restrictive; if the County undertake this project with GDOT's assistance and, if so, is following the GDOT specs required; that there are currently 11 tie down spots and there are 50-60 planes coming in for the Aerocommander Flying Club; that the cost for portable or temporary tie downs is comparable to the full cost of parking spaces. Mr. Champion asked Ms. Hill if she could come up with something for parking 50/55 planes and not shut down local or transit traffic. Discussion continued with Ms. Hill asking if the County could grade and drain an area, to which Mr. Lange responded that the crews are currently tied up with a project that must be completed by the end of October or the County will forfeit a \$500,000 grant, but that he will touch base with Mike Brown, Public Works Director, regarding same. Mr. Lange also indicated that reimbursable funds should be coming in soon and is needed to get a better idea financially; that he will talk to Paul Glick, Finance Officer, today about same. Consensus was that the parking/tie downs needs to get done, and Ms. Hill commented that same has been included in the CIP for 2017. (See Aerocommander Flying Club comments)
- K. **Aerocommander Flying Club.** Mr. Champion reminded all that the Aerocommander Flying Club will be at the Airport in September; that the attendees will spend anywhere from \$500 to \$700 per day per person while in the area; that one hangar is going to be used for classes; that they will be purchasing gas and need tie downs; that if this goes well, the Airport could have three or four such events per year; that if parking or tie down areas are not available some may end up going to Columbus or LaGrange for security purposes. Ms. Hill said that she will draft options for parking/tie down by Monday; that she will be meeting with Mr. Lange about Airport funding next week.

At this point in the meeting, the call with Ms. Hill was disconnected.

- L. **Jets.** Mr. Champion reported that no jets landed last month or so far this month, mostly due to the length of the runway.
- M. **Security.** Mr. Champion said that the fencing for security and for wildlife is still needed; that grants are available for same; that this was discussed in the past, but nothing has been done; that the west end is totally unsecured since the gate and post were knocked down.
- N. **Damage to Airport Light.** Mr. Champion reported that an intoxicated driver was on the runway on July 3 around 10:30 or 11:00 PM, hit the berm, burned their engine, and took out a taxi light, locked up their engine. This is another reason for security fencing.
- O. **Property at Nelson Road and Highway 18.** Discussion took place regarding clear cutting taking place at the corner of Nelson Road and Highway 18. Mrs. McMichael is to contact

Community Development and Public Works to find out what is going on or planned for the property.

- P. **Open House.** Mr. Johnston suggested that the date for the Open House be September 15, there were no objections to the date, and the event will start at 5:00/5:30 and run until about 8:00. The Chamber's assistant is to touch base with Mr. Champion regarding what needs to be done; the County can provide tables and chairs if necessary.
 - Q. **Fly-In.** Mrs. Dawson reminded everyone that there will be a Fly-In on Saturday, July 16, from about 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with ribbon for new facilities at 11:00 AM. County needs to provide about 4 tables and 25/30 chairs.
 - R. **Restrooms in Hangars.** Mr. Champion reported that the restrooms are ready to use, but there is no hardware for the toilet paper and paper towels.
 - S. **Water Fees.** Mr. Champion said that he no longer runs Champion Wells, but his son Frank does, and Frank has indicated that they will start charging for the water usage at the Airport; that Ben Baker will pay the tap fee and water bill for his hangar and the same will hold true for the commercial hangar.
 - T. **Telephones.** Mr. Champion said that he is not sure of the status of the phone lines to the hangars, and Mrs. McMichael said that she would notify Jamie Webb, Facilities Maintenance Director, about same.
- 4. **NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting will be Thursday, August 11, at 10:00 AM.
 - 5. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Lange adjourned the meeting.

Prepared by: Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk

Minutes approved _____ by a vote of ____ to ____.