MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2020

Members: Thomas Main   Von Memory   Suzanne Johnson
           Cope Lawrence

Attendees: David Padgett   Sean Gallagher   Matt Thomason

           Louis Rutland (conference call)

The Board reviewed the Agenda with a motion to accept the agenda by Cope Lawrence with a second by Suzanne Johnson.

Suzanne Johnson failed to provide paper copies of the minutes from the last meeting.   Minutes were emailed to the Board members. The Board opted to table the review of the minutes until the next meeting. Cope made a motion to postpone reading of the minutes with a second by Suzanne Johnson.

The financial statement was reviewed by the Board. Cope questioned the payment activity of tenant William Hodge. The tenant has occupied hangar #8 for over a year without paying rent. Suzanne has contacted Mr. Hodge and was given the assurance that a payment was imminent. Mr. Hodge also wanted to be placed on the waiting list for a newer hanger. Von Memory suggested actions to reclaim the hangar since Franklin Field has a waiting list. Matt Thomason cited FAA regulation regarding occupying hangar space. Legal counsel Rutland suggested steps towards eviction. Suzanne will follow up by contacting Mr. Hodge to initiate a voluntary eviction.

The operation budget was reviewed, grass cutting has doubled. Multiple repairs on the fuel pump and credit card machine have added to maintenance costs. David Padgett reported the Development Board operational funding will be

issued as soon as possible, towards the end of October. Cope inquired about the number of runway cuts for this year. Matt inquired about the County contributing to bush hogging the runway areas. David commented the county is stretched during the summer months. Cope asked if FFAA needed to bid out the mowing since it would be closer to $16,000 a year. Louis Rutland informed the Board that any expense over $50,000 would be under the bid law. Suzanne Johnson made a motion to accept the financials with a second by Cope Lawrence.

Matt Thomason gave an update on the runway project end. The old fence will have to be moved and is in the scheduling process. After the fence is moved, the runway can be open. The road is open to traffic. The 2018 and 2019 projects were slightly under budget. Some of that savings may be used for other projects with ALDOTs permission. The fencing project will cost approximately $500,000. No runway closure will be necessary. Fencing may be able to start in September. Pre-construction meeting will need to be coordinated with GMC, the contractor and the FAA.

Suzanne reported on the fuel pump issue and possible purchase of a jet fuel system. The pump keeps losing prime and the credit card reader is having cellular issues. Matt reported a new system (FAA standards) turn-key in Greensboro was around $160,000. Thomas also discussed getting an automated system with a water monitor for the current tank. A monitor would not be needed if the system was above ground. The airport will be having more traffic and a reliable fuel system is needed.

Thomas reported on the use of the airport by crop dusters and their access to the runway with tankers hauling chemicals. The secondary apron is messed up with gravel. Matt suggested the airport had a duty to protect the new runway and not allow tankers to tear up the new asphalt. The new end of the runway would be more viable for tractor trailer access with a concrete turnaround. Cope will contact a source for a price on concrete.

Thomas Main opened discussion for new business concerning the fence project around the church. Thomas asked for assistance from David and other members of the Board with informing the church of the upcoming fence changes.

Louis Rutland will be retiring as legal counsel for the Airport Authority. Mr Rutland has suggested Elizabeth Smithart as a replacement. District 4 has a new commissioner Solomon Marlowe and he could appoint a new Board member to replace Suzanne. David Padgett suggested the Board keep the new

Commissioner informed and invite him to participate in the airport progress. David suggested a billboard on site informing the public of the upcoming runway renovation and the future value of the airport. Thomas suggested another PR event with local children once the Covid 19 restrictions were relaxed.

The dirt road relocation and bidding process was discussed. Thomas suggested using the county engineer as a resource and submit a bid request in the newspaper to get an idea of cost for the project.

Matt presented upcoming airport development needs and project concepts for the runway ultimate apron area, culvert and taxi way. These improvements are necessary to encourage and promote industrial development. FAA needs to know by the end of November the airports intention on actively moving forward.

Von Memory emphasized the need and urgency to inform the public of the airport progress. The public perception of the airport is vital and their understanding of it as an economic value is crucial for its success and growth. David encouraged getting the State department of commerce and any visiting entities to meet at the airport to promote the county. Von informed the Board that if the Authority wants to remain viable we must get busy and promote and sell it so that it becomes a destination and not a pass through. David suggested a strategic and marketing plan in cooperation with the Development Board. He also stated the web site for Franklin Field is in the development stage and ready for input from the Chairman. Von Memory stated it is easier to hold the fort than to retake it. Action towards promotion of the airport must be done now. Sean emphasized the need to get mayors and county officials on board talking about the airport with their daily contacts. If they are not talking about the airport, then we have failed.

Matt asked the Board to consider what upcoming projects for 2021 they would like to start on. The environmental study or weather station. Von suggested the consideration be tabled for the next meeting.

Cope made a motion to adjourn with a second by Suzanne

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Suzanne Johnson Secretary/Treasurer