Minutes of Fairhope Airport Authority October 10, 2023

The Fairhope Airport Authority met October 10, 2023 at 5:00PM in the City Hall Council Chambers at 161 N Section Street.

Present: Pel Henry, Chairman, Don Ward, Chip Groner, Don Lagarde, Will Bruce, Jack Burrell, and Amy Pearson. Also present was Josh Myrick, Attorney. Cynthia A Boothe took the Minutes.

The Minutes of the September 12, 2023 regular meeting were considered and approved with a motion by Don Ward, second by Chi Groner and unanimously passed.

Continental Aerospace Report: Paula Hembree was unable to attend so Dave Friedel gave the Authority members her fuel report. For the month of September, 2023, AV Gas was 7,313 gallons and Jet A was 23,548 gallons. For September 2022, Av Gas was 10,188 gallons and Jet A was 24,169 gallons.

Airport Manager's Operations Report: Dave Friedel stated that the groundbreaking for the new terminal building would be on October 16, 2023 at 10:00AM. He also stated that the fence line has been moved so the construction area will be outside the fenced area.

Dave reported that the East Gate has been installed and finished but is having alignment problems, so Baldwin Fencing is supposed to make adjustments this afternoon or tomorrow.

Dave stated that the AWOS had the windspeed sensor changed but that did not fix it because the crossbar circuit board needs replacing which will cost \$2,500.00. Because the problems with the AWOS and the fence and possibly the south 1/3 of the runway lights were all damaged by the same lightening event Dave suggested that an insurance claim could be filed to help with expenses. Pel Henry agreed and asked for a motion to file a claim. A motion was made by Jack Burrell to authorize the Chairman and the Airport Manager handle filing an insurance claim for all the damages, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed.

Dave reported that the traffic count for the Airport for September 2023 was 5,751 operations compared to August 2023 count of 7,135. He said that the drop off is normal for this time of year but should pick back up towards the holiday season.

Dave stated that the FAA & ALDOT will be meeting soon to discuss next year's projects and that Jordan Stringfellow suggested that the Airport hold off on power washing the runway until they see what direction the discussions go in as the runway project may be put off until 2025 and the Airport may have to look into repainting the runway instead of power washing.

Dave reported that the ACA meeting went very well, and they got a lot of good feed back and information and met with ALDOT and the FAA. He said that next week he will be going to the FAA Southeastern Conference in Atlanta and that Volkert will be going also, and he is looking forward to it. On the 21st through the 23rd the Airport had Marine para-jumpers out at the Airport and were pleased with the support the Airport gave them. Dave mentioned that he had met Howard Hadley, a former board member and that Mr Hadley offered the Authority a vintage propeller for display, and he picked it up today.

Engineer's Report: Luke Hicks reported that the Contractor is submitting for the materials for the Terminal Building and that everything is on schedule.

Luke stated that Jordan had received an amendment to the proposal of the design of the runway and she is still reviewing that and will send to Authority Members once she has finished the review.

Luke stated that Jordan is also reviewing the ESA Phase II Environmental Study and that he had talked to their Environmental Department who stated that the cost would be about \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00.

Luke reported that the preapplications for the Runway Project and the Terminal Parking Lot were submitted and approved but it will probably be December before they will know if the funds have been allocated for these projects.

Treasurer's Report: No Report.

Legal Report: Josh Myrick reported that there has been a good response for the lease amendments that were sent out to the tenants to make the lease payments all due on November 1st of each year.

Josh stated that he has a draft of an addendum to the proposed lease with Golo Adventures for extending the taxiway from its current terminus to Lot P27A which states that GOLO Adventures will be responsible for the extension of the Taxiway from its current terminus to Lot P27A according to FAA standards and that the Airport Authority will then be responsible for the striping and maintenance of the Taxiway extension according to FAA standards. A motion was made to accept the addendum to the lease by Chip Groner, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed.

Josh stated that he had an amendment to the Lease for Vince Boothe concerning the new survey for his lot that had to do with the RDI Hangar causing a change to be made to Vince's previous survey and to state that construction on this lot would need to start no later than January 1, 2024. A motion was made by Don Ward to accept the amendment, second by Will Bruce and unanimously passed.

Board Discussion/Approval Requests: Pel Henry stated that because the Airport has been much busier this last year that the retainer of \$1,800.00 for nine hours work paid to the Airport Attorney is often abused and he spends more than nine hours attending to Airport business. Pel suggested changing to \$225.00 hourly rate for his services. After a brief discussion of the Authority Members, a motion was made by Don Lagarde to pay the \$1,800.00 monthly retainer and \$225.00 an hour for more than nine hours with a cap of 20 hours, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed.

Other Business: Pel stated that he would like the Authority Members to authorize him to engage with Preston Bolt of Hand Arendall Harrison Sale to help complete the paperwork required for the Airport Authority Loan for the Terminal Building. After a brief discussion of the Authority Members a motion was made by Don Ward to authorize Pel Henry, Chairman, to engage with Preston Bolt of Hand Arendall Harrison Sale to help complete the necessary paperwork for the Airport Authority Loan for the Terminal Building with any qualified Financial Institution, second by Will Bruce and unanimously passed.

Pel Henry stated that Don Lagarde had sent out an email and Corey Martin, City Councilman, stated that he had been talking to different individuals and officials about the possibility of a Command Center at the Airport. A FEMA Grant was applied for, and Corey wants the Authority to follow through with application to see if the opportunity for a Command Center is possible for the Airport. Pel asked Councilman Martin to send the Authority the information that has so that they can review it.

Comments from the General Public: No Report.

Executive Session: Josh Myrick stated that the Authority would move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and consideration the Authority is willing to take for a lease, which is allowed under the Open Meetings Act with an estimated time for the Executive Session and that the meeting will likely adjourn after the Executive Session. Chip Groner made a motion to adjourn to the Executive Session for fifteen minutes and to include Dave Freidel, second by Don Ward and unanimously passed with a Roll Call Vote. The Authority moved to Executive Session at 5:51PM.

Return from Executive Session: The Authority returned from the Executive Session and reconvened at 6:18PM.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:19PM with a motion by Jack Burrell, second by Don Lagarde and unanimously passed.

Pel Henry, Chairman

Submitted by Cynthia A Boothe