

Macon County Airport Authority
Minutes of the Meeting Held on March 25th, 2025

The Macon County Airport meets for its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 25th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Macon County Airport. All members except for Member Rhodes, who is excused, are present. Also present are Jack Morgan, Interim County Planner; Stuart Sloan, Legal Counsel; Greg Kershaw, Project Engineer; Sabrina Sloan, Airport Manager; Lori Carpenter, Finance Director; and Teresa McDowell, Clerk. Chair Gregory welcomes all who are present and calls the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTED FOR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 25TH, 2025: After a brief discussion, Member Horton makes a motion to approve the minutes as forwarded. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF FY 2024-2025 AUDIT CONTRACT: Ms. Carpenter states that the Audit Contract was put out to bid with Martin Starnes submitting the selected bid. The cost for the audit will be \$7,000.00 for this year. After a brief discussion, Member Horton makes a motion to accept the contract as presented. Member Shuler seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. Chair Schmitt signs the contract.

OLD BUSINESS:

ENGINEERS REPORT: Mr. Kershaw reports on the two projects that have been approved through the Division of Aviation. They are obstruction removal and crack repair and sealing. The NEPA CATEX has passed. The obstruction tree and fence repair project is subject to a full CATEX as required by the DOA. In requiring this, the project will not be eligible for AIG funds. This project will have to be paid for utilizing NPE funds instead. The tree removal alone should move faster and approval is required by June 9th, 2025. Mr. Kershaw continues by stating that the annual planning meeting is the mechanism to get “something going”. The airport projects depend on federal grants because North Carolina is a block grant state. There is some concern regarding the DOGE program.

Airport Manager Sabrina Crone states that she has been contacted by a contractor who wants to donate dirt to the airport, in order to remove it from his construction site. There would be no charge for the dirt, but there would be a charge for hauling it to the airport. This process can be very complicated in that NEPA compliance is required. The flood plain manager, Caleb Gibson, would need to be contacted on the local level, and then the DOA would have to be contacted. The two ways of accepting would be to stockpile it loose or obtain approval to place dirt in final location and compact it. This would be the best choice. Mr. Kershaw will check with the DOA to see if this is a possibility. There is a question as to whether the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians would need to be contacted for approval. The project would have to be permitted before any dirt can be moved to the airport. The authority authorized Mr. Kershaw to contact the DOA regarding the process required.

UPDATE FOR “OLD” TERMINAL BUILDING RENOVATION: Ms. Carpenter reports that a pre-bid meeting was held on March 5th, 2025 and that several contractors attended. The submission date for bids was March 21st, 2025 and the bid was awarded to WindRiver Construction in the amount of \$117,500.00. The project will be funded partially through a state grant and partially through airport authority contingency funding. This project is not a big job, which made obtaining bids difficult. The budget is in the amount of

\$129,250.00, with \$100,000 provided through a grant and \$29,250.00 through airport authority contingency funds. After further discussion, Member Shuler makes a motion to approve the initial bid as submitted. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent. The bid is good for 60 days with the end date for the project being August 31st, 2025. After further discussion, Member Horton makes a motion to transfer the needed contingency fee of \$29,250.00. Member Haithcock seconds the motion and it passes by unanimous consent.

UPDATE ON HANGAR PROJECT (CHRIS GREEN): There has not been any further communication with Chris Green at this time.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Carpenter states that there is **CARES Act Money** in the amount of \$39,565.00 available for the Walker Whiteside submitted claim and for the Vans Electric invoice.

Member Horton and Member Haithcock will be attending the **NC Airport Association meeting** on April 8th, 2025.

The authority would like to express **written appreciation** to Ronnie Beale for all of his assistance in the terminal building renovation. Ms. McDowell will take care of this.

There being no further business to discuss, Member Horton makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Shuler seconds the motion, which passes by unanimous consent. The meeting is adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Pete Haithcock, Secretary