

# **SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2011

## **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:06 p.m. on December 7, 2011 at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Committee Chairman, Jeff Reed.

## **Advisory Committee Members Present:**

Julie Wheatley, Director, Sussex County Economic Development

Gus Croll      Garrett Dernoga      Rick Garner      Jeff Reed      Richard Wilson

Also Attending:

Louise Thompson, Account Analyst, Sussex County Council, representing Dave Baker, County Administrator

Jim Hickin, A.A.E., Sussex County Airport, representing Mike Izzo, P.E., County Engineer

## **Advisory Committee Members Absent:**

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council  
Mike Izzo, P.E., County Engineer  
Larry Kelley

Dave Baker, County Administrator  
Mark Ryan

## **1. Introduction**

Jim opened the meeting by introducing Louise Thompson, Sussex County Account Analyst, representing Dave Baker, to the committee and to members of the public.

## **2. Approval of Agenda**

A Motion was made by Jim Hickin, seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to approve the agenda as distributed. The agenda was unanimously approved by consent.

## **3. Approval of Minutes**

A Motion was made by Jim Hickin, seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2011 meeting as distributed. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

#### **4. Public Comments**

John Reichert stated that work to replace his hangar doors will be started soon. He also mentioned about the terminal building gate being left open for a couple weeks. Jim Hickin commented we are waiting on parts to repair the gate. It was also noted that John Reichert will also have a concrete patch repaired in the front of his hangar in the very near future. Gus Croll commented that he should be able to start within 2 weeks.

#### **5. Airport/Industrial Park Security**

Jim Hickin commented that Joe Kempf, Sussex County Safety & Security Director, has not received any additional information from the county attorney regarding the status of the Security Guards checking various properties on the airport. Jim will follow up with Joe to see what the status is before the next meeting. Jeff Reed complimented Sussex County Security with the job they are doing around the airport.

#### **6. Emergency Response**

Rick Garner reported that things are status quo in regards to a future drill that he is trying to coordinate with Georgetown Fire Company.

Jeff Reed commented that he and Jim Hickin both attended a meeting that involved security at the airport and that there was not any negative feedback from the consultant regarding the overall status of the airport and emergency response issues.

#### **7. Wildlife Management Update**

Deer- Jim stated that the county is still moving ahead with the plans to get rid of the deer. He did report seeing one goose that appeared to be “lost”, and a fox. Jim shared that PATS had been having problems with various wildlife in their hangar and hired a trapper to catch the wildlife.

Jeff Reed asked if Jim had talked to DNREC regarding the use of archery to rid of the deer. Jim said when the county staff approves the deer management plan we will then obtain required permits to rid of the deer. The meat from the deer will be donated to a food bank.

#### **8. Wings & Wheels Review**

Jim Hickin reported that the event was a huge success with approximately 6,000-7,000 people in attendance. He also noted that this year they had an extra night of the event, which was a Canteen show on Friday night, and that was also very successful. There were no issues or conflicts with the event being held on same weekend as the NASCAR race. Julie Wheatley said the only problem she really heard was the logistics of the drop off/pick up points that were eventually worked out. The date for next year is October 6, 2012.

## **9. Motor Fuel Tax**

Jim Hickin distributed information to the committee on AVGAS taxes and a fuel price survey Larry Kelley had compiled in October 2011. Discussion centered on AVGAS tax rebate that has to be applied for in order to get it back from the State. Jim Hickin asked the committee what recommendation they want to make to County Council. Jeff Reed replied that he didn't think committee was ready to make a recommendation to County Council based on the information they currently have. Jeff would like information to include how much is actual aviation revenue, what is the total amount of moneys that is collected, how much is actually refunded, and the net dollars and obtain a figure on the gallons. Jim Hickin offered to get a breakdown on the dollar figure of \$215,000 that the State receives in revenue from the tax. Rick Garner also offered to make some calls to get more information before the next meeting.

## **10. Airport Update**

Jim Hickin informed the committee about the intent of Verizon to locate a cell phone tower near the airport. FAA has determined the tower would be a hazard to air navigation. The public is being asked for comments regarding the tower. Comments to FAA are open until December 24, 2011. Jim stated that the tower is not compatible with the land use plan and it would affect the air traffic to the airport. As of now, there have been no permits or plans submitted to Planning and Zoning by Verizon. The committee, as a group voted to write a letter of opposition to the project. A motion was made by Jeff Reed, and seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to ask Jim Hickin in some formal manner to communicate to the Sussex County Council that the advisory committee is opposed to the cell phone tower location with the information that was given at this date. Motion passed by consent with Jim Hickin abstaining.

Jim Hickin provided a handout with a list of Sussex County Airport projects for 2012. The items on the timeline are:

- A. Rudder Lane Drainage Improvements: Opened bids today; addresses drainage issues on Rudder Lane from fuel farm on down to culdesac. Scheduled to begin January 2012-April 2012 (approximate 3 month project).
- B. Taxiway A (North): A repaving project consisting of the main ramp to runway 22. It will affect tenants and aircraft from Terminal Building all the way down Rudder Lane. The county is working to minimize inconvenience. It is scheduled to begin approximately April 2012-May 2012. A meeting will be held in January with the tenants to obtain their input and concerns of the closure.
- C. Taxiway B: Will perform a crack and seed of the concrete from the other side of the runway to Taxiway H, mainly an overlay. This project will be dependent on the weather. The project is tentatively scheduled for July 2012.
- D. Concrete Apron: Involves a complete repair of all the areas that needs addressing. Tentatively scheduled for June 2012.
- E. Runway 4-22 Extension: Project is dependent on FAA funding and is a discretionary project. We are tentatively expecting a notice to proceed sometime in July 2012. The project will be complete sometime in 2013.

- F. Runway 4-22 Edge Light Replacement: Still deciding on the type of new lighting to install. The project is scheduled for Sept-Oct 2012.
- G. Storage Building: Will be a pole barn storage building, 60x120 and will contain snow removal equipment, Mobile Command Post, and Bookmobile among some of the uses of the building. This project is expected to occur mid 2012 and take approximately 2 months.

Jeff Reed asked Garrett Dernoga how the tie down area was working and Garrett commented it was great and there were enough spaces. A motion was made by Gus Croll, seconded by Rick Garner, for Jeff Reed, Chairman of the committee to send a message by email or letter to the clerk for Sussex County Council to advise the County Council that the new tiedowns that were put in and used throughout the busy season of this summer were of a large benefit to the aviation community not only here at Georgetown but to the transient aviation traffic that came in and is recognized by the Airport Advisory Committee to be successful. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **11. Airport Policies – Minimum Standards**

Jim Hickin reminded the committee that they cannot debate topics via email or outside of the meetings as they are a public body.

A handout was distributed showing the county attorney's opinion on Minimum Standards and it's applicability to existing tenants. Discussion on Minimum Standards began regarding Section 4 (Aircraft Maintenance Operator). Jim commented that reason you have Minimum Standards is to prevent unjust economic discrimination which violates our grant assurances. After much discussion, Rick Garner made a motion, seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to table this discussion until clarity can be given to Section 1.2 (Applicability) of the Minimum Standards document.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 6 p.m. at EOC.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Reed, Seconded by Rick Garner. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk III Technician  
Sussex County Airport