

# SUSSEX COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2014

## **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Airport Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 6:02 p.m. on February 26, 2014, at Sussex County Emergency Operations Center, by Sussex County Airport Manager, Jim Hickin.

## **Advisory Committee Members Present:**

Honorable Sam Wilson, County Council  
Todd Lawson, Sussex County Administrator  
Mike Izzo, Sussex County Engineer

Gus Croll    Garrett Dernoga    Larry Kelley    Jeff Reed    Mark Ryan    Richard Wilson

Jim Hickin, Sussex County Airport (Non-member)

## **Advisory Committee Members Absent:**

Rick Garner            Julie Wheatley, Sussex County Economic Development

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

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

### **2. Election of Officers**

Nominations were taken for the position of Chairman. A motion was made by Jeff Reed to nominate Gus Croll. The motion was seconded by Garrett Dernoga. At this time nominations were closed. By vote of consent Gus Croll is the Chairman for 2014.

At this time the meeting was turned over to the Chairman, Gus Croll. Nominations were open for the position of Vice-Chairman. Jeff Reed nominated Larry Kelley, seconded by Garrett Dernoga. At this time nominations were closed. By vote of consent, Larry Kelley is the Vice Chairman for 2014.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

A Motion was made by Mike Izzo, seconded by Garrett Dernoga, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2013 meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by consent.

**4. Declaration of any letters, opinions or other guidance from outside the Advisory Committee presently or in the past**

Jim Hickin informed the committee that there was an editorial in the Cape Gazette newspaper regarding the Airport Business Plan and summarized the airport is well run.

**5. Wildlife Management Update**

Jim reported that nothing has changed regarding the increase of wildlife on the airport property. Gus asked about snowy owl sightings and Jim replied that we have not seen any here. There is still an area of fence that needs to be addressed where deer are entering however it's been too wet to repair that section.

**6. Airport Update**

Jim Hickin discussed the following updates:

- 1- Runway Extension project beginning with a review of a Public Meeting that was held on February 19, 2014 at the Emergency Operations Center. The meeting was poorly attended. Information was provided regarding the implementation of Package 2, to begin March 29, 2014, and will include milling, paving and grooving of Runway 4-22, MALS and moving both sets of PAPI's. Jim discussed the scheduled closures of the runway during this phase of work.
- 2- Other paving projects include moving the speed bumps at the industrial park as well as some other areas that need paving in the park.
- 3- The second phase of the Concrete Apron repair will begin on April 28, 2014 and will last 30 days. It will be done in two phases.

At this point Todd Lawson announced that Julie Wheatley, Director of Sussex County Economic Development, has submitted her resignation effective February 28, 2014. Airport and Industrial Park issues will still be referred to Jim Hickin, while Economic Development issues will be referred to the County Administration Office.

**7. Wings & Wheels Update**

Larry Kelley updated the committee with changes for Wings & Wheels 2014. The food and entertainment on Friday night will be different this year and will include a swing band as well as an Abbott and Costello comedy routine. The theme this year will be "First and Last" to capture the first and last bombings that occurred in Japan. Larry also stated that parking for the event will be a challenge.

**8. Airport Business Plan Update**

Jim Hickin stated the plan is complete and has been presented to Sussex County Council and at this point we are waiting for direction from the Council to act on the plan.

**9. Waterloo VOR**

Jim discussed the issue and informed committee that the Airport's response to the FAA had been presented to Council and that it was sent to the FAA. The County does not support decommissioning the VOR. Todd Lawson also sent a letter to the congressional delegation asking for their support in this matter.

**10. Airport Branding**

Todd Lawson discussed the Airport Business Plan and commented that one of the recommendations in the plan was to brand the airport. The airport has an "identity crisis" and clarification needs to be made with the name. After several comments and suggestions on the matter Todd now has a better idea of how to move forward with this issue. The consensus was that the renaming of the airport should be in conjunction with marketing, economic development and tourism to be effective in this process.

**11. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**12. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, Georgetown, Delaware.

A motion to adjourn was made by Garrett Dernoga, Seconded by Jeff Reed. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Wise, Clerk IV  
Sussex County Airport