

**CURRITUCK COUNTY
AIRPORT ADVISORY AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF MEETING OF
AUGUST 18, 2004**

The regular monthly meeting of the CCAAA was held on August 18, 2004, at the Terminal Building Conference Room. Members Present: Tracy Eure, Chair, David Messina, Bob Kohler, Lewis Babb, Sr., and Tom Brady. Absent: Jerry Old, Richard Turner, and Commissioner Paul Martin. Also present: County Manager Dan Scanlon. Guests: Rick Barkes and John Caldwell from the Division of Aviation and Wayne Leary, Economic Development Director.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Eure called the meeting to order and called the roll.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – Chairman Eure stated that the discussion with the Division of Aviation officials would be moved up to follow the Fuel Report. Also, a closed session would be added to the end of the meeting for economic development purposes.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Messina moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2004, meeting as submitted. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
4. **Fuel Report** – Members reviewed the fuel report but had no questions for Mr. Scanlon. Mr. Messina observed that Jet ‘A’ sales should be up when runway is fully operational.
5. **New Business**

➤ **Division of Aviation**

Mr. Scanlon explained that Mr. Barkes and Mr. Caldwell had been invited to the meeting to clarify questions of jurisdiction of airspace. Mr. Barkes stated that the FAA controls airspace from the ground up. The land on which the airport is located is locally controlled. Regarding changing departure patterns, he was of the opinion that it would be very difficult to justify and get approval to do so because of safety and liability issues. Departure patterns are standard for general aviation airports. However, he was aware of steps taken by various means to inform pilots of the County’s request to attain a certain altitude before turning and agreed that the County had made the effort to do everything possible to be a good neighbor. Since North Carolina is a block grant state, the Division of Aviation brokers complaints, investigates if necessary and forwards to FAA. He advised that persons with complaints should call him with as much information as possible regarding the offending aircraft. Mr. Caldwell agreed that educating the public was an effective plan. Mr. Barkes commended the County on their plans for the airport and offered to come back to meet with any other interested parties. Mr. Scanlon stated that the Master Plan was being revised to give the airport more space and push back the commercial/industrial area. Another engineering firm,

Hyman and Robey, has been contracted to design the industrial area and work with Talbert & Bright on the overall plan for the property.

6. Old Business

➤ Runway Extension

Permission has been received from the State to cut the timber from the corner area at Maple Road and US 158. The procedure for clearing wetlands has to be discussed and approved by the Corps of Engineers. As soon as the clearing is done, the lights can be moved to open up that end of the runway extension. Negotiations are still in process for the property on the other end.

➤ Updated Hangar List

Mr. Scanlon stated that staff had gone through the list and contacted everyone. From replies, the waiting list has been revised. It is divided into two sections: the priority list being those with tie-downs and paying taxes on aircraft and the other list for those waiting until hangar space is available to bring aircraft to the airport. Letters have been sent notifying parties of their place on the list. He passed around the updated list. Mr. Babb asked about the Board of Commissioners' work session to discuss hangars. Mr. Scanlon replied that the Board had authorized him to negotiate with two parties interested in leasing land for hangars or businesses. Since that meeting, another interested party has contacted him.

➤ Transfer of State Property

The General Assembly passed a bill to transfer the property to the County; however, the State Property Office is now trying to determine how to make that happen. The Attorney General has been asked for an opinion.

➤ Airport Staffing

Mr. Scanlon related that the airport is staffed Monday through Thursday.

➤ Currituck Aviation Closing

Mr. Scanlon stated that the agreement with Currituck Aviation was being reviewed by the County Attorney to determine if the County can terminate that agreement and pursue bringing in another mechanic business.

➤ FAA

Regarding the proposed tower, Mr. Scanlon reported that he was waiting for the FAA survey team to come back to determine where the tower would be placed.

7. Other New Business

➤ Ocean Systems Test and Evaluation Program (OSTEP)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has contacted Mr. Scanlon to locate weather equipment for testing and evaluation. He has talked with Steve Bright who sees no problem with their locating it near the AWOS.

➤ Cooperative Extension Building

Final negotiations are in progress to purchase land on US 158 next to Central Elementary School for the new Cooperative Extension Building. Mr. Scanlon has asked the engineers to plan for another access road next to the School. Security fencing is in place around the AWOS and the gas tanks. Fencing is also being extended to other unfenced areas. The security gate will be put back in. Mr. Messina suggested that positive press releases be issued about projects as they become finalized.

8. Closed Session

Mr. Messina moved to go into Closed Session. Mr. Kohler seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Leary related information about another business interested in locating at the airport.

Prior to closing, Mr. Kohler introduced a discussion on the banner towing business. Complaints had been received. Mr. Scanlon was to contact the banner towing business owner.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mr. Brady moved to adjourn. Mr. Kohler seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.