

**CURRITUCK COUNTY  
AIRPORT ADVISORY AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
July 16, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of the CCAA was held on July 16, 2008, at the Terminal Building Conference Room. Members present: Chairman Tracy Eure, John Gross, Dave Messina, Ken Norris, Jerry Old and Jim Winebarger. Also present: Commissioner Gene Gregory and Wayne Leary, Airport Manager. Excused Absence: Denise Hall. Guests: Robert Alphin, Peter Bishop, Troy Breathwaite, Larry Johnson and Kevin Burwell.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Eure called the meeting to order.
2. **Welcome** – Chairman Eure welcomed everyone.
3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – Mr. Gross moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Old seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – Mr. Old moved to approve the June 18, 2008, minutes as submitted. Mr. Gross seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.
5. **Foreign Trade Zone Discussion** – Mr. Bishop introduced the item as a tool to lower tariffs and duties on imported and exported goods. Given Currituck County's close proximity to the Port of Virginia, the County could take advantage of this tool. Mr. Bishop then introduced Kevin Burwell, Chairman of the Economic Development Board, who works at the Port of Virginia. Mr. Burwell distributed a handout on Foreign Trade Zone status and briefly explained what it means. He noted that the airport and industrial park would be the perfect location for a foreign trade zone, within the distance restrictions and with its proximity to the Intracoastal Waterway and the rail system. Mr. Bishop related that he had talked with clients who would be interested in locating within a foreign trade zone. Mr. Burwell mentioned various requirements involved in the approximate 18 month application process, including letters of support from state and federal agencies. He also noted that a foreign trade zone expert lives in the Hampton Roads area and is very interested in assisting with locating a foreign trade zone in northeastern North Carolina.
6. **OLF Discussion** – Mr. Leary introduced Larry Johnson and Troy Breathwaite. Mr. Leary related that military jets had been flying more frequently and lower. Mr. Johnson encouraged all Camden and Currituck residents to file a complaint about disturbing flyovers. There was the fear that, if the OLF is situated at Hales Lake, eventually air space will be restricted which will affect existing surrounding airports. Mr. Johnson pointed out the serious environmental issues existing and anticipated if the site is developed. Mr. Breathwaite felt that Hales Lake had been chosen despite any environmental issues. If the site is to be defeated, it will have to be done politically. North Carolina politicians must be contacted for their support. It was feared that the two squadrons at Cherry Point would eventually be moved to Oceana. Mr. Breathwaite outlined the EA process. Several items of information were shared regarding the history behind the issues. Mr. Johnson emphasized the need for funding from the private sector to help with the fight against the OLF. Also needed is more cohesiveness within the residents to keep the pressure on the politicians. A sample letter with names and

addresses of the congressional delegation were distributed. Mr. Johnson also requested a resolution from the Authority. He referred the members to the website as being a good source of information about the issue. Mr. Leary was to prepare a resolution. Mr. Johnson also requested assistance with getting aerial photography of the proposed site. Mr. Leary was making contact for this purpose.

## 7. Old Business

Mr. Leary reported on the following:

- **Hangar Construction Update** – Mr. Leary related that site work had begun on the hangar site.
- **Land Acquisition Update** – Mr. Leary met with DOA staff and a letter of support for the land acquisition was forthcoming. He also reported that he was working with the Planning Staff to develop an overlay zone to protect the airport from encroachment by development. DOA is in favor of the county acquiring as much property as possible and is already looking to funding future lengthening of the runway because of all the interest by companies organizing charter flights and for emergency situations. DOA is advising wise planning of adjoining property to protect the expansion of the runway. They would also like the airport to have a minimum of 600 acres. Currituck is to be designated by DOA as a Red Airport.
- **Budget** - Mr. Leary was asked if funds were appropriated for additional full time staff. He replied that was being discussed.
- **Fuel Truck** – Commissioner Gregory asked about the fuel truck acquisition. Trained staff would also be needed. Mr. Leary was to discuss with him.
- **Hang gliding** – Mr. Messina reported on an incident of a large aircraft aborting a landing due to a hang glider. The aircraft circled the airport and landed after he saw the glider was not using the runway. Mr. Messina suggested that a report be filed with Kitty Hawk Kites and the County.
- **Committee Updates** – There were none.

## 8. New Business

- **NC Aeronautics Council Report** – Mr. Leary reported on the meeting regarding the budget. Of \$13 million state capital project funding allotted to DOA, \$5.5 million was designated for place name funding to two projects not on the DOA list of top 20 projects. However, it appears that the \$5.5 million can be found within the DOT budget to replace the shortfall caused by the place name projects this year.
- **Internet for Terminal Building** – Mr. Winebarger asked about hook-up. Mr. Leary reported that DirectTV would be installed the following day and Hughesnet soon. Pilot's Lounge would be wired for same. The cost of these services can be offset by a Small Community Air Service grant.

## 9. Consent Agenda

- **Fuel Report** – AVGAS was doing well. Mr. Leary was looking into the possibility of using the smart card system to pass the savings on for customers using Shell credit cards.

## **10. Adjourn**

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