

**Essex County Airport Authority Meeting
March 14, 2024
6:00 pm**

Call to Order and Welcome

Attendees

Barry Bates – by call
Mike Maurer
John McDonald
Sara West
James Acors
Jeff Tarkington
Alvin Lynn - guest

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Request for Changes to and/or approval of the Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

Executive Session

None

Approval of Minutes of the February 8, 2024 Meeting

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of February 8, 2024 meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Lynn noted a local vineyard/winery within the restricted flying area of the airport was planning to have a hot air balloon festival again May 17-18, 2024. He noted the airport should have been notified, which was not done, and the vendor providing the balloons should notify the FAA. Mr. Acors stated he would contact the vineyard owners in the compliance of the process.

Presentations

None

Anticipated Action Items

None

Consultant's Report

Mr. Tarkington, reported on the State Aviation meeting of February 22nd.

One point of interest was the State funding has been increased from, which is a great help for state aviation projects.

There was a in depth discussion on the possibility of new hangars for the airport.

Mr. Tarkington explained the DOAV and FAA allocation plans and processes. This would continue to be discussed at the next meeting.

Airport Manager's Report

Mr. Evans reported on the tree cutting completed by Sydney Logging to clear the areas around the runway.

He noted the AWOS was repaired, and the Rail lights on the runway were repaired as well. The carpets in the Terminal building were cleaned as planned.

Hangar rentals were discussed, and it was confirmed all hangars are full and 17 are on the waiting list.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. West discussed the February 2024 Budget Tracking report.

There were no DOAV or FAA reimbursals.

\$4,700 was paid for the cutting of trees encroaching the runway area. This cost is reimbursable at a percentage by the DOAV.

\$1,495 was paid for the annual air traffic monitoring system.

Mrs. West noted the CDs received a quarterly interest payment, and she reminded the Board of the renewal of the CDs on May 22, 2024. Next interest earned would be at that same time.

There were no questions to the report and it was accepted as presented.

Legal Counsel Report

None

Old Business

Fuel farm discussion

Needs for the fuel farm were confirmed and after the discussion, it was decided to obtain 2 quotes to be presented at the April Board meeting.

Hangar discussion

Addressed in the Consultant's report.

Emergency Services discussion update

Mr. Acors discussed his research on possible EMT services access at the airport. He stated there will be a potential merger in the future of Pegasus and Air Care. There is much need and interest in Level 1 trauma care and Med Vac services for the Northern Neck area, between Northern Virginia and Richmond, with airport and possible hangar availability needed. There will be follow up at the May meeting.

New Business

New Internet service for the Airport

A lengthy discussion was held on the need for good quality internet service for the Tappahannock Airport, as there has been unreliable service with past carriers. It was determined that Starlink is the possible best option for the area, at this time, in comparison to other company services.

Mr. Tarkington said Tappahannock could apply through the DOAV for a grant for assistance in cost, which hopefully could be approved at the May 2024 state meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to proceed with the Starlink quote and setup, at a cost of \$2,500, which is reimbursable at 95% by the DOAV. The application will be submitted to the DOAV immediately.

Consultants contract renewal

The Consultants renewal contract will be submitted for approval with renewal due prior to the June 29, 2024 deadline.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:10 pm.

The Next Authority Monthly Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sara West
Secretary/Treasurer
March 14, 2024