



## Griffin Spalding Airport

" Your Aviation Gateway "

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### **Minutes of Airport Authority Meeting 10 September, 2012 6:00PM**

#### **Attendees:**

|                      |                    |                  |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Cmr. Dick Morrow (C) | Cmr. Eddie Freeman | Cmr. Joanne Todd |
| Cmr. Raymond Ray     | Mr. Ron Alexander  | Mr. Keith Smith  |
| Mr. Larry Johnson    | Mr. Carl Pruet     |                  |

#### **Also in Attendance:**

Mr. Kenny Smith (City Manager)  
Mr. Robert Mohl (Airport Director)

#### **I. Call to Order:**

At 6:02PM with a quorum present the Chairman, Cmr. Morrow, called the meeting to order.

#### **II. Adopt Minutes:**

Prior to the adoption of the minutes, Cmr. Morrow made a statement regarding his property holdings or the lack thereof in the area in which the new airport may be constructed. He also commented on the policy of board members recusing oneself from votes to avoid any perception of impropriety when policy decisions may present a conflict of interest and may or may not impact them directly.

The Chairman made a request to entertain a motion to accept the minutes from the Airport Authority Meeting held on 13 August 2012. Cmr. Raymond Ray motioned to accept the minutes and Mr. Ron Alexander seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, 8-0.

#### **III. Audience Comments: None**

#### **IV. Old Business: None**

#### **V. New Business:**

**a. Meeting with GDOT** – Commissioner Morrow reported on the meeting he and Mr. Brett Lavender had with Ms. Carol Comer, Director of Intermodal Transportation for GDOT. Basically the information from her was that “we” should not quit, to keep going, that GDOT was operating under FAA rules and that once we bring the land to the table we can proceed. They also discussed multiple issues touching on: land pre-sale, air freight, aircraft maintenance, business & corporate aircraft mix and obtaining land readily available. Mrs. Todd indicated that there appears to be properties in the new airport footprint that are already in foreclosure and there are others who are quite ready to sell. Cmr. Morrow stated that Ms. Comer suggested that we should try and acquire those properties that are already for sale now. Mrs. Gwen Seale (audience member) asked if it was possible for Mr. David Lucky and the Development Authority could assist the Airport Authority in purchasing the land for the new airport. Mr. Morrow stated that would be something they would have to discuss with the Development Authority. It may be possible to get the DA to purchase adjacent properties for businesses that would want to build

near the new airport. Cmr. Morrow said that these were all avenues that we need to do additional research on. Mr. Alexander stated that they did maintenance work that they did for the airlines that they call “off wing” on component parts not needing an airport to do the work. As for the corporate maintenance, in which Griffin had some, he indicated that we would be looking to attract companies such as Hawker Beechcraft and those like the ones we lost to Peachtree City. Mr. Johnson asked as we are finding or if we are looking for these available properties, where are we getting the money to purchase them if we cannot get the money to buy the airport footprint? These are all issues we need to do our homework on.

**b. Formation of Support Group** – Mrs. Todd stated that in a conversation she had with Ed Ratigan, he indicated there were other avenues of funding that we may be able to act upon. She continued that we need to form a group that supported the project and that this group should include our area business, industry and educational leaders (UGA & Griffin Tech). That this group would prepare and make an appointment to see the Governor to show a definitive need for this project demonstrating the education & employment opportunities that this project would bring in order to continue to move forward. We could ask the Governor to loan us (as in an equity loan) the money to purchase the land against our reimbursements. Mrs. Todd referenced the example of Mr. Matt Collins receiving 5 million for a parking garage and that she could ask her contacts at GMA Ms. Becky Taylor to help to facilitate a meeting with the Governor. Cmr. Todd also spoke with Trisha Pridemore about employment in this area and she stated that she would also assist in setting up meeting to discuss this with the Governor. Cmr. Morrow stated that this is a solid idea and will take some time to identify the leaders and speak with them about representing us. Mr. Alexander stated that properly prepared industry leaders would be our best bet in stating how a new airport would benefit us. He also stated that there will be a need in the near future for aircraft mechanics, there is a shortage of them now. Mr. Alexander indicated that Mr. Bill Taylor would be an excellent start in building this coalition, Cmr. Morrow & Mr. Johnson agreed. Cmr. Morrow stated that he will talk with Mr. David Lucky and Mr. Bill Taylor about assisting us with this endeavor. Mr. Carl Pruett indicated that Mr. Scott Tigler of Raleigh Studios operating in Senoia, could be instrumental in establishing a movie studio here in Griffin, and the possibility of contacting him and offering some type of pre-sale of the current airport, as it has multiple large buildings that could be used as studio’s as more movies and television shows are filmed in this area. Cmr. Morrow stated that he spoke of a pre-sale with Ms. Comer and that she indicated it was a possibility and would require careful maneuvering to accomplish.

**c. Marketing & Sponsorship** – Cmr. Morrow would like to have a marketing package put together for review to develop a package that we can send out to potential businesses that may wish to locate at the new airport, he also would like a marketing information paper put together stating the acreage of the current airfield, the number of buildings and associated square footage. Mr. Keith Smith asked what department would put that together, Cmr. Morrow stated that the AD could put that information together. He further stated that the public perception of the current airfield is a huge money loss for the City & the County but that the reality is it has a positive impact to the community. AD reiterated that of the 95 General Aviation airports in the state the current G-S Airport ranks 10<sup>th</sup> with respect to business as reported by GDOT in its 2011 Economic Impact Study. AD continued that the current airport generates an annual payroll (all businesses) of 7 million dollars and an economic impact to the community of 21 million dollars.

**VI. Report of Committees:**

- a. Budget & Finance (see minutes attached)
- b. Legal & Insurance – no report at this time
- c. Personnel (see minutes attached)
- d. Property & Assets (see minutes attached)

**VII. Airport Director’s Report:** AD provided the monthly status reports regarding current airport trends in activity & operations / budget revenues & expenditures and fuel sales for the month ending 31 August 2012. (see attached). He also reported on the status of the upcoming Airport Improvement Project (AIP) regarding the removal of trees off runway 14 and the replacement of the airport beacon tower. AD reported that he had received the Tentative Allocation (TA) letter from GDOT indicating a grant in the amount of approximately \$185,000.00 (see attached)

**VIII. Authority Board Member Comments:**

**a.** Cmr. Todd stated that she felt the meeting was very productive and that a lot of great ideas have been discussed and is encouraged that we may move forward with this very important project.

**b.** Cmr. Morrow indicated that he and Vice Chair Brett Lavender will be going to the Paulding airport to get an idea of what we are aiming for and get some of the details from a few of their Authority members and that if any of our Authority members wanted to go that they were all invited. AD stated that he can arrange a meeting up there as we have been invited by the AD at Paulding. Cmr. Morrow asked Cmr. Ray if the use of the Spalding County bus would be possible, Cmr. Ray indicated a strong probability.

**IX. Next Airport Authority Board Meeting : 08 October, 2012 6PM**  
**Location : One Griffin Center**

**X. Adjournment:** At 7:20PM Cmr. Dick Morrow entertained a motion to adjourn, Cmr. Raymond Ray motioned to adjourn & Mr. Larry Johnson seconded, the motion was unanimously passed, 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joanne Todd  
Secretary,  
Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority

C:  
Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority  
Aviation Advisory Board Members  
Kenny Smith  
William Wilson