



Griffin Spalding Airport

"Your Aviation Gateway"

1035 South Hill Street
Griffin, GA 30224

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Minutes of Airport Authority Meeting 12 August, 2013 6:00PM

Attendees:

Cmr. Dick Morrow (C)	Mr. Brett Lavender (VC)	Cmr. Joanne Todd (Sec)
Cmr. Bart Miller	Mr. Carl Pruett	Mr. Larry Johnson
Mr. Keith Smith	Mr. Ron Alexander	

Also in Attendance:

Mr. Kenny Smith (City Manager)
Mr. William Wilson (County Manager)
Mr. Mike Reiter (Michael Bake / LPA)
Mr. Robert Mohl (Airport Director)
Mr. Ray Lightner (Griffin Daily News)

I. Call to Order:

At 6:00PM with a quorum present the Chairman, Cmr. Morrow, called the meeting to order.

- II. Adopt Minutes:** The Chairman made a request to entertain a motion to accept the minutes from the Airport Authority Meeting held on 08 July 2013. Mr. Keith Smith motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Carl Pruett seconded. The motion was approved (8-0).

III. Old Business:

- a. **Operating Agreements:** Cmr. Morrow reported that he the AD and the HR Director are working with the City Attorney on drafting an operating agreement for personnel services.
- b. **Work Authorization 13:** AD reported that the WA is here and ready for signature. We are in-between controlling authorizations and the AD now requires Airport Authority approval rather than City & County. WA 13 is for the ALP Update & boundary survey that will be reimbursed in AIP-30. Mr. Brett Lavender motioned to approve, Mr. Ron Alexander seconded, Cmr. Miller had not had the opportunity to read the WA therefore he abstained. The motioned passed (7-0-1).
- c. **LPA – New Airport Update:** Mr. Mike Reiter was available for questions.
- d. **I-WANA Update –** AD presented updates to the website including the presentations & maps. Mr. Larry Johnson addressed the audience, (and Mr. Bryant's question about where to go to get information) here is where you can go to get the most accurate information. AD reiterated that if you have questions after reading the info off the website, to please feel free to come and visit at the airport to get further more detailed information.

IV. New Business:

- a. **TCA Agreement** (reviewed) Agreement to replace the "Leaning Beacon Tower of Griffin". Mr. Keith Smith asked what would be done with the old light. AD replied that it was part of the contract to turn it in, but he will ask.

V. **Audience Comments:** Approximately 40 Citizens attended the meeting, several made comments both for and against the new airport project.

Ms. Bonnie Frogner, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce (statement made to Cmr. Morrow) The Chamber of Commerce supports the New Airport Project.

Ms. Kathy Noble, 876 Musgrove Rd. Griffin, GA. Past Chairman of the Griffin GOP stated that having reviewed the data, she and the Griffin GOP support the New Airport Project.

Ms. Debra Grant, 984 North Second Street Extension, Griffin, GA. 30223, represents the “Kennedy Girls”, a group of neighbors living on or near Kennedy Road, stated she has looked at several different maps being circulated and wants to see the official map. Airport Director cited that there is a map on the website as well as an enlarged version located at both the City & County offices. Ms. Grant asked several clarifying questions about the actual location of the proposed site. Ms. Grant stated she has concerns and is hesitant about the New Airport Project. She was led to believe that the airport, as part of the T-SPLOST, thought that the New Airport Project was cancelled since the T-SPLOST did not pass.

Mr. David Lamb, Chair of the Spalding County Water Authority, 1702 Quail Drive, Griffin, GA. 30223. Is concerned about economic development and or the lack thereof here in Griffin & Spalding County. Based upon past experience, the loss of the textile industry and other businesses, transportation & infrastructure are critical to growth and prosperity. States that we have been on the short list for many businesses to locate here but we never seem to close the deal. He related that he has lived in other communities and worked in businesses near both small and larger airfields. The one that supported the larger airport and its associated development continued to grow & prosper. Time, as a resource, is very valuable to business leaders, being able to get in and get out of a community quickly to do business is critical and is what corporate entities look for when deciding where to locate their businesses. He supports the New Airport Project.

Mr. Wade Miller, 1319 Buttermilk Ln, Griffin, GA. A new resident to Griffin, living here about a year and is very happy to be a new member of the community. He formerly served as a member of the Airport Authority in Thomasville, GA. He is greatly familiar with aviation, aviation construction projects, business and the need for supporting infrastructure. It is not a silver bullet in solving all economic problems but it is a big step in the right direction as a tool that in the ever growing and rapidly expanding field will be a necessity for community growth and attracting jobs. He understands the feelings of those that live in the area and will be impacted yet he recognizes the opportunities that this will provide our community and supports the New Airport Project.

Mr. Frank Bryant, 415 South Walkers Mill Rd. Griffin, GA. Stated that not all the Griffin GOP supports the new airport, his wife is a member and does not support the project, he however does not oppose the New Airport Project. At 75 years old we are close to losing what we have because of taxes. He expressed concerns about the operating deficits and tax payer money that is needed to subsidize the airport. He states that the airport, golf course & other entities needs to be self sustaining. We must demonstrate the need and benefit that the airport would provide. He is also under the impression that the airport project was cancelled when the T-SPLOST was defeated. He asks if there was any discussion about partnering with the surrounding counties to build a regional multi-county airport supported by all parties? Commissioner Morrow & Director Mohl addressed his questions.

Mr. Frank Harris, 1881 South Sixth Street Extension, Griffin, GA. Stated his family has lived in Griffin since 1850. He serves as the Chair of the G-S Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee working tirelessly with the T-SPLOST initiative. He attempted to correct peoples mis-understanding that the failure of the T-SPLOST was not a referendum on the commuter rail and the airport project but that was an attempt to provide funding for transportation projects that we desperately need. Included of which was the local match for the new airport and the money for a new airport terminal that would also be a center for economic development, meetings & conference rooms and the like. The T-SPLOST would allow for letting other folks in our region to help pay for some of these things and it was not well communicated on how this would occur. The best thing we can do is attract businesses that will pay the tax base to support our needed growth. We had a chance with Interstate 75, we had a chance with Gordon College, we even had a chance at having the Air Force Academy, how many chances are we going to let slip by?

Mr. Frank Harris, continued.....We are better than that, we will never get this chance again, we must have the vision for the future for our children & grandchildren and not let this slip by. He supports the New Airport Project.

Mr. Lamar Jones, 23 Kennedy Road & Hwy 155, Griffin, GA. He worked for the City Fire Department for 32 years. He worked the call the night the aircraft crashed into the Roses Shopping Center. He still supports the New Airport Project and recognizes the need for growth and development. I have met with Director Mohl several times and asked him many questions. He states that he understands that his house will most likely be purchased when the project occurs, but this is something we must do. Commissioner Morrow reiterated the Runway Protection Zones will be larger and be protected so that these safety concerns will be addressed unlike how the current airport is configured now.

Ms. Nancy Morales, 100 Shady Hill Ln. Griffin, GA. Stated that they sent someone to get a map that was dated 2012 and is different than a map she is familiar with from 2011. Cmr. Morrow asked Director Mohl & Mr. Mike Reiter if this is the current map. They stated that this is the current one and that if you come out to the airport the Director will provide you with the current map. She said the one she saw had the runway going across Hwy 155. Director Mohl stated that the runway does not cross 155 but the protection zones do. She further went on to say that there is no guarantee that if a plane crashes it will be inside the protection zones. Planes do not come straight in and they will pass over Jackson Road, Kennedy Road & Spalding High Schools. Director Mohl re-stated that at the current airport planes cross over Crescent Elementary, Anne Street School & Moreland Road Schools. She also is worried that the aircraft coming in will be large and the noise will affect the schools they fly over. She does not support the New Airport Project.

Mr. Tim Perez, 205 Coleman Rd. Griffin, GA. 30223 Stated he is a career pilot flying professionally for 14 years now for both private, business & military. He states that he is for a new, successfully run, airport. He empathizes with those that may be forced to move. An airport with proper amenities can be done efficiently and quietly. With proper flight traffic patterns, restricted minimums & noise abatement procedures properly published will address most of the noise concerns. A new airport can generate a lot of business both on and off the airfield. He supports the New Airport Project.

Commissioner Morrow proceeded with a presentation demonstrating the difficulty Spalding County faces with its budget for the next several years (see attached). He illustrated the potential exists for the county (& city) entering a "Death Spiral" if growth & economic development do not occur. The tax base is eroding year after year after year. This is not a criticism of the County leadership, I used to be a County Commissioner, this is what they face! The cost of everything, (gas, materials & resources, emergency vehicles, maintenance, etc.) is going up and up. We have cut in both the city & county budgets all we can cut, and the revenue coming in is dropping. This is the problem we all have to try to solve. He also addressed the noise and school concerns and the proximity of schools at both the existing and potential new airport. The schools are closer to the existing airport than they will be to the new one. Commissioner Morrow addressed myths circulating about aircraft size and use at the new airport (see attached chart).

Ms. Dorlonda Blumister?? 741 North Second Street, Griffin, GA. Is concerned about the new airport's proximity to her property and the pipeline. She fears for aircraft accidents & crashes. She does not feel she has a choice and is just hearing about this and feels this is too dangerous for her family. She does not support the New Airport Project.

Mr. Frank Bryant, 415 South Walkers Mill Rd. Griffin, GA. This has been a very informative meeting. He appreciates the Board and the Airport Director's presentations. He has one further question, what will happen with the old airport? Cmr. Morrow stated that the old airport, once released from FAA obligations, the property is roughly appraised at 8 to 10 million dollars that we can sell and cover other expenses involved in moving tenants and possibly some of our upfront costs.

Ms. Carrie Gebler, 646 McArthur Dr. Do we have any commitments on industry and jobs or are ya'll just dreaming? Cmr. Morrow stated that we cannot advertise or market the new airport until we commit to building the new one. The AD has developed a rough plan to do just that but we cannot go out to businesses and say we might build a new airport. We do have our current tenants that will move with us. She continued with her comments and said that you cannot guarantee that a plane will crash in the safety zone.

Ms. Carrie Gebler, continued..... Cmr. Morrow affirmed that that is a correct statement, but that we have planes operating overhead now from both our current airport and out of Atlanta. Unfortunately from time to time accidents do happen. She does not support the New Airport Project.

Ms. Mary McCurry, Ponderosa Road. We need to get people jobs, I am 81 years old and I need a job. Why don't you try getting businesses in here to provide jobs before you build this airport? Mr. Carl Pruett indicated that businesses are looking for places to put their factories and plants. The competition for those businesses are extreme and those communities that have the infrastructure end up getting the businesses and corporations to their communities. This is what we need to be competitive. She continued, I have several holes on my street and need someone to come fix them.

VI. Report of Committees:

- a. Budget & Finance – no report at this time
- b. Legal & Insurance – no report at this time
- c. Personnel – no report at this time
- d. Property & Assets – no report at this time
- e. Transition – no report at this time

VII. Airport Director's Report: (See Attached)

VIII. Authority Board Member Comments:

Mr. Larry Johnson – When this airport is being constructed we will try to use as many local companies and workers that we can possibly get bringing more jobs and money back to this community.

Mr. Carl Pruett – this project will provide 5 to 7 years of jobs for this community, construction, hauling, electrical, plumbing, paving and concrete work, all kinds of local jobs that people in our region desperately need. I (as does Commissioner Joanne Todd) live on the south end of the current runway, been there since 1950. The noise is most often generated by the smaller propeller engines. The jets maybe a little louder upon take off, but they are not overhead very long, the prop planes are slower and you here them longer. When Dundee and the rest of the mills shut down suddenly a lot of good people (like my wife) found themselves out of work, the economy is bad we need this project. There has been no magic key to bring business to Spalding County. Most of us up here have been working on this project for many years, we are interested in the economic future of this community. Our taxes are going up and will continue to go up until we bring in businesses that will share in that burden. This airport will be 6 or 7 miles from Interstate 75, off of a 4 lane highway, across the road from a new industrial park. When the economy does come back what company is going to wait for us to get ready, or are they going to go to those communities that have invested into their infrastructure?

Cmr. Morrow updated the Board on his meeting with Commissioners Flowers & Todd (County & City), updated them on where we are with negotiations with the bank and spreadsheets with the breakdown of costs to the City & County. It was a productive and cordial meeting. Once we get more information we will meet again to update both Chairs.

Mr. Brett Lavender & Mr. Carl Pruett both complimented Cmr. Morrow on his groundwork and working behind the scenes, negotiating with the banks trying to get this project off the ground.

AD reiterated that the community needs to be aware that the Operating Deficit is not the same as the Tax Payer Burden. Cmr. Morrow agreed.

IX. Next Airport Authority Board Meeting : 12 August, 2013 6PM
Location : One Griffin Center

X. Adjournalment: At 8:15 PM The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn, Mr. Larry Johnson motioned to adjourn & Mr. Ron Alexander seconded, the motion was unanimously passed, (8-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Joanne Todd
Secretary,
Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority

C:
Griffin-Spalding Airport Authority
Kenny Smith, City Manager
William Wilson, County Manager