Minutes of Fairhope Airport Authority
April 8, 2025

The Fairhope Airport Authority met April 8, 2025 at 5:00PM in the City of Fairhope Council Chambers at 161 N Section Street.

Present: Pel Henry, Vice Chairman, Len Strickland, Susana Freeman, Will Bruce, and Jack Burrell. Don Ward and Mitch Skrmetta were absent. Also present was Josh Myrick, Attorney and Dave Friedel, Airport Manager. Cynthia A Boothe took the minutes.

The Minutes of the March 11, 2025 regular meeting were considered and approved with a motion by Len Strickland, second by Will Bruce and unanimously passed.

Airport Manager's Report: Dave reported that the traffic count for March, 2025 was 6,349. He also reported that in February and March of this year there have been some days that had traffic approaching six hundred ops.

Dave stated that the tank re-line project started on March 17th and is going very well. The exterior painting was completed on April 1st. The electricians have come out to hook everything back up. They found a few small electrical items that need to be addressed and will work up a quote for those repairs plus a quote for the electrical outlet. Perry Brothers will come back out and start filling the tanks and testing this week.

Dave reported that on March 28th there was a prop strike at the Airport. There was a great response from emergency services, air traffic and airport users. He stated that there was a light single engine tail dragger that came in on a very windy day. They caught a draft at the wrong time and had a prop strike. There were no injuries to the pilot and no property damage except to the aircraft. Dave thanked Zach McNeill, Quinton Dupper, and Flightline First for their quick response to help the pilot. Dave stated that he and Ethan from Flightline First will relook over the procedures for reporting and getting information to the Mayor, Authority Members, Etc., as necessary.

Dave stated that the Knox Boxes were installed on the East and West Side gates. During installation, the West Side keypad died, and a new keypad has been ordered.

Dave stated that there were sewer issues last month. Both sump pumps at the T-Hangars went down at the same time but were able to be fixed the same day it was called in. There was another issue on the East Side and Dowsey thinks it is a break in the utility corridor on the East Side and is working on a quote for repairs.

Dave stated that there has been some interest from tenants on the East Side about installing mailboxes outside the gate. He asked the Authority members for their input on this or to have a CBU set up outside the gate. After a group discussion, it was decided that Dave will find samples of different types of mailbox setups so the Authority members can decide which type of mailboxes they would like to have installed.

Dave stated that DBT's, who does the AWOS service, contract is up for renewal. It is a three-year contract at $6,490.00 per year. He wanted to know if the Authority wants him to renew the contract. Len Strickland made a motion to extend the DBT contract for AWOS service, second by Susana Freeman and unanimously passed.

Flightline First Report: Ethan reported that there were 7,483.2 gallons of AV-gas sold, and 36,255.8 gallons of Jet-A sold for a total of 43,739 gallons.

Ethan stated that he had attended the NBAA conference in New Orleans and had a booth set up and advertised the Fairhope location. He said he met a lot of people and made some good connections there for more possible charter operators.

Engineer's Report: Jordan stated that she checked with Derrick and the grant for the Taxiway Lighting Project is still at the Regional Office for approval, but she expects to get the approval very soon.

Jordan met with Dave and Ethan about the Seal Coat Project to talk through the project, the sequencing of it, and the proposed striping they will be going back with after it is sealed. The plans are getting finished up this week and they will be sent to ALDOT for a final review before advertising for bids. The plan after that is to open bids within about a month. As soon as the bids are opened it will be brought to the Authority as a grant application to the State, and pending the Authority's approval, it will be sent to the City Council for approval. Construction should be within thirty to sixty days after bid opening.

Jordan stated that the Noise Study for the Runway Project is still ongoing and the final plans for the project will be sent to ALDOT this week for final approval. The project will be advertised for bids at about the same time as the Seal Coat Project. Jordan should have the grant application ready for approval by the Authority by the May 13th meeting, and the City Council approval at the next City Council meeting following the Airport Authority meeting. That way she will have time to get the grant application submitted before the June 16th deadline.

Jordan stated that she has the CE&I (construction services contract) for the Runway Project, but she is waiting for ALDOT to finish reviewing it before she presents it to the Authority.

Treasurer's Report: No Report.

Legal Report: Josh Myrick stated that he has not heard anything from Clear Sky's attorney concerning the 2% surcharge, so he will be following up on this next week and will bring a proposal from them for reconciling the issue at the next meeting.

Josh stated that Len Strickland's appointment expired last month, and he needs a motion to reappoint Len to a new six-year term. A motion to recommend to the Mayor to nominate Len Strickland for a six-year term was made by Jack Burrell, second by Susana Freeman, and unanimously passed.

Board Discussion/Approval Requests: Pel Henry welcomed Susana and Mitch to the Authority and stated that Mitch has volunteered to take over as Treasurer for the Authority.

A motion was made by Jack Burrell to appoint Mitch Skrmetta as Treasurer, second by Len Strickland and unanimously passed.

Pel Henry stated that every five years or so the State likes the Authority to send out an RFQ for Engineering Services. Don Ward had asked Pel Henry, Lamar Wilson, and Dave Friedel to review the three RFQ's that were submitted. After the reviews, a recommendation was made that the Authority keep Volkert Engineering for the Authority's engineering services. Len Strickland made a motion to move forward with a Master Services Agreement with Volkert, second by Will Bruce. After a group discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Other Business: No Report.

Comments from Advisory Council Members: No Report.

Comments from the General Public: No Report.

Adjournment: Jack Burrell made a motion to adjourn, second by Len Strickland and unanimously passed. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:47PM.

Pel Henry

Pel Henry, Vice Chairman

Cynthia A Boothe

ubmitted by Cynthia A Boothe