

# Minutes

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## OCEAN COUNTY AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*April 26, 2017*

*Ocean County Airport, Terminal Building*

*Berkeley Township, NJ*

**Attendance:** Tony Agliata (Assistant Planning Director), Kevin Douthitt, Sandy Duma, John Hess, Dave McKeon (Planning Director), Martin Smolen, Steve Simone (Senior Planner), Frank Work

**Opening:** 7:05 PM

### **Welcome & Sign In:**

Mr. Agliata

- Welcome.
- As our first matter of business, we need to announce that Herman Hulse has stepped down from the Airport Advisory Committee. He has been replaced by Robert Ricciuti.

Mr. Simone

- Mr. Hulse has served on the committee since 1989.

Ms. Duma

- What is the role of the committee?

Mr. Agliata

- The County is responsible for the operation of the Airport. The Airport Advisory Committee essentially serves as the County's "eyes and ears," informing us of issues with the Airport's operation.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Snow Plowing**

Mr. Agliata

- The snow plowing season went smoothly; the only snow storm took place on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Gate 9**

Mr. Agliata

- The County is actively engaged in a number of minor repair and improvement projects.
- First and foremost is the effort to repair Gate 9. What started with a computer issue has gone on for months. A fence contractor was on site today, and a technology contractor will be on site tomorrow.

Mr. Douthitt

- Could Gate 7 be used as the primary access point for the time being?

Mr. Agliata

- Using Gate 7 is not preferred, as the flow of traffic would likely interfere with the apron.
- Still, this is something we may have to consider if the problems with Gate 9 persist.
- We're hoping to return Gate 9 to proper working order as soon as possible.

Mr. Douthitt

- While Gate 9 remains open, deer and other wildlife can more easily enter the airfield.

Mr. Smolen

- Coyotes are a problem, particularly.

Mr. Agliata

- The repair of Gate 9 is something the County is actively pursuing.

### **Roof Leaks**

Mr. Agliata

- The County has also continued to address the issue of roof leaks in the t-hangar buildings and in the maintenance hangars.

Mr. Douthitt

- The repairs to the roof of Building 57 have been successful.

### **Terminal Building Tiling**

Mr. Agliata

- Unforeseen wear and tear to the terminal building's carpeting has led the County to consider installing tiling throughout much of the first floor.

### **Jet A Tank 1**

Mr. Agliata

- The problems with Jet A Tank 1 have largely been addressed. It recently came to light that there was no leak in the tank, and DEP approval was given to resume use. In working with the LSRP from Mott MacDonald, we have installed a second interstitial riser to aid the pumping of the annular space.

Mr. Douthitt

- Is the tank's construction comparable to that of a double-walled ship?

Mr. Simone

- No. The tank is comprised of two layers of steel, one wrapped tightly around the other. There is only enough space for minimal airflow between the two layers.
- Residual fuel leaked out over eight years ago apparently collected in this space and migrated to the interstitial sensor, which initially led us to believe there was another leak.

Mr. Agliata

- The tank will be brought back on line and filled to capacity shortly.

### **Building 57**

Mr. Agliata

- Building 57, the oldest of the t-hangar buildings, will be painted soon. The building's outer coat of paint has faded considerably over the past few years.

### **Airport Licenses and Insurance Renewals**

Mr. Simone

- Some aspects of the operation of the Airport are not often seen.
- Every April, the Airport needs to renew its license with the NJDOT to continue operating as an aviation facility. We always post our current license in the terminal lobby.
- The County maintains insurance policies for the Airport which are periodically updated. The last update took place over the winter.
- The FAA requires our Airport to account for all aircraft which are based here either full time or part time. This is the Fixed Base Inventory, and it is updated at the beginning of every calendar year.

- The Airport's three concurrent hunting permits were also recently renewed. These allow for the taking of deer and turkey, migratory birds, and non-game birds.

### **2017-2020 Airport Capital Improvement Plan**

Mr. Agliata

- Another of the County's annual responsibilities is the updating of the capital improvement plan.
- This is our schedule for large scale improvements such as the recent helipad lighting project or the current 6-24 lighting rehabilitation project.
- As it is updated, we make the Airport Advisory Committee aware of upcoming projects.

### **New Business:**

#### **New T-Hangar Building Construction**

Mr. Agliata

- The new t-hangar building is currently under construction.
- The building's footings were just recently poured. It is on schedule to be finished sometime in July.
- There have been a few delays in the approval process, but now that construction is underway things are progressing well.

Mr. Douthitt

- Did the township have any objections to the construction?

Mr. Agliata

- No, but there were some questions raised during permitting regarding the classification of the building.

Mr. Hess

- Will a new taxiway need to be constructed?

Mr. McKeon

- No, there are existing taxiways on either side of the new building.

Ms. Duma

- Will the new building be larger than the existing t-hangar buildings?

Mr. McKeon

- Yes, but not considerably. All of the individual units will be large enough for a twin engine plane.

#### **Taxiway Alpha Crack Repairs**

Mr. Agliata

- As some of you are aware, several large cracks have opened up on Taxiway A, just outside of the terminal building.
- We are working with the County Road Department to address this issue.

Mr. Hess

- There are also several cracks on the Apron.

Mr. McKeon

- The County has a grant application pending with the NJDOT to fund the repair of the Apron.
- The funding is not guaranteed, but we've applied anyway in the hope it may be available.

Mr. Hess

- These cracks are probably attributable to freezing and thawing during the winter.

Mr. Douthitt

- Does the Airport possess a means to repair joints and cracks?

Mr. McKeon

- Years ago the County purchased such equipment. Unfortunately, its use became impractical.

### **Forest Fire Service**

Mr. Agliata

- The New Jersey Forest Fire Service is currently stationed on the Airport.
- Due to the construction of the new t-hangar building, they have relocated to the former site of the Civil Air Patrol hangar.
- Their season began on April 10<sup>th</sup> and will end on May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- In 2016, the Forest Fire Service was at MJX for a total of thirty-two days. They responded to eleven fires, made thirty-eight drops totaling more than fifteen thousand gallons of water, and logged over six hundred flight minutes.

### **Ocean Air Support Squadron**

Mr. Agliata

- The Black Sheep will begin flying missions again soon.
- Among their priorities this year will be the monitoring of a newly acquired Natural Lands property in Bayville, known as the New Jersey Pulverizing Site. It is over seven hundred acres in size.

Mr. McKeon

- The County closed on this property back in December.
- Since then there have been some issues with trespassers using all-terrain vehicles.

### **Grant Project Updates**

Mr. Agliata

- The Runway 6-24 Lighting Rehabilitation project is underway. There are about four to six weeks of work left.
- Beginning in early May the contractor will begin working night shifts. These will occur Monday through Thursday.
- On evenings on which work is being done, the ILS will need to be deactivated. The runway will also be closed from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
- There will be only one night on which both runways will be closed—when the lights along the intersection are being replaced.
- Pilots should be mindful of NOTAMs.

Mr. Douthitt

- Will the Airport be closed at any time during this project?

Mr. Agliata

- No, MONOC will still be able to operate.

Mr. Douthitt

- What is the total duration of the project?

Mr. Simone

- The project will take no longer than ten weeks. Completion is scheduled for mid-June.

Mr. Agliata

- Very soon, the County will go out to bid for the rehabilitation of Runway 6-24's pavement.
- This will be a continuation of the heightened activity we expect at the Airport over the coming year.

Mr. Hess

- Will the pavement rehabilitation involve a mill and overlay?

Mr. McKeon

- Yes. The surface will be twenty years old next year, so the entire surface needs to be redone.

Mr. Agliata

- Running concurrently with the rehabilitation of Runway 6-24 is the replacement of the 6-24 PAPIs and REILs. This project will be funded solely by the NJDOT, as was the helipad lighting project.
- Applications have also been submitted to the NJDOT for the taxiway construction and apron joint/crack repair projects. As Dave McKeon previously mentioned, this funding is not guaranteed.

## **Items from the Floor:**

### **Beacon**

Mr. Smolen

- What is the status of the beacon? Can it be raised? Can the trees surrounding it be topped? It is very difficult to see from fifteen miles out.

Mr. Agliata

- Just today, the green bulb went out. It should be fixed in a few days' time.
- As for construction activities related to the beacon, this is a project that is outlined in the Airport's capital improvement project. We are due to replace the entire beacon in a few years from now.

Mr. McKeon

- The FAA is aware of the concerns raised about the beacon's visibility.
- When it comes time to replace the beacon, perhaps the visibility can be professionally surveyed. Perhaps the matter can be resolved by elevating the beacon by ten feet or so? We may soon find out.
- The current beacon has been in place since 1991, so it is definitely due for maintenance.

### **AWOS**

Mr. Douthitt

- The AWOS phone line is out.

Mr. Hess

- The AWOS works fine when accessed by radio. When the phone number is dialed, a loud humming is heard on the line. This has occurred several times over the past few months.

### **Key Fobs**

Mr. Douthitt

- Who at the Airport handles the distribution of key fobs?

Mr. Agliata

- The County is responsible for the management of key fobs. The FBO handles their distribution, but we control each fob's access rights.
- Steve Simone manages the inventory, and can deactivate a fob that has been lost or is overdue.

Mr. Douthitt

- I understand the key fobs are expensive. Is there a more cost effective means of controlling who is denied access?

Mr. Agliata

- While it is true that the system is expensive, it is just not practicable to expect every key fob to be returned when it is due.

Mr. Hess

- Does the Airport still require Sheriff's IDs?

Mr. Simone

- No, it has been several years since a Sheriff's ID was required to gain access to the airfield.

Mr. McKeon

- That policy had been implemented shortly after September 11, 2001, especially over concerns about our Airport's proximity to Oyster Creek.
- The current County Sheriff has not chosen to continue the policy.

### **T-Hangar Lights**

Ms. Duma

- Do the floodlights mounted to the t-hangar buildings come on automatically at dark?

Mr. Douthitt

- Yes, though some of the lights need to be replaced.

Mr. Agliata

- Replacing broken light fixtures is the responsibility of the County.

Mr. Douthitt

- Some Airports, such as Melfa, VA, have switched to LED floodlights on their buildings. They are much more energy efficient than the incandescent bulbs we are currently using. Is this something the County could look into?

Mr. Agliata

- Yes, the County can look into this.

Mr. Simone

- If the exterior floodlights are going to be replaced, perhaps we could upgrade the interior lights to LEDs at the same time.

Mr. McKeon

- Grant funding may be available for just such a project.

Mr. Douthitt

- If the County so desires, it is possible to install electric meters for each t-hangar.

Ms. Duma

- Is it feasible to install skylights in the t-hangars?

Mr. Simone

- While feasible, it might not be prudent, given all of the issues we've had with roof leaks.

### **Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

Mr. Agliata

- Please contact me or Steve with any issues.
- The next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on July 26, 2017 at the terminal building.
- Members will be notified.

**Closing: 7:46 PM**