

Carteret County-Beaufort Airport Authority

Board Meeting

April 25, 2024

Present: Chris Chadwick, Jesse Vinson, Dean Graham, Jimmy Falwell, Bucky Oliver

Others Present: Janie Mason-Airport Manager, Peggy Piner – Finance, Anthony Held – Building and Grounds, Sharon Griffin- Carteret County Interim Attorney, Chad Noble – FBO Manager, John D’Annunzio - Paraclete, Jeff Plisko – Crystal Coast Skydive, Chief Tony Ray – Beaufort Fire Department.

ZOOM: Jay Talbert – Talbert & Bright

Chairman Chadwick called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. There were no conflicts.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Oliver to approve the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Graham and passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Vinson to approve the consent agenda as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Oliver and passed unanimously.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Old Business: Jay Talbert – Talbert & Bright

Runway 321 Rehabilitation: Construction contracts have been executed by the Airport and ST Wooten is currently working through subcontracts. Construction NTP is anticipated for Mid-May pending subcontractor availability. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024, with the Airport, Contractor, TBI and NCDOA. The NCDOA agreed with the CA Work Authorization IFE on April 19, 2024. TBI is currently working with the Airport on the grant modification to get these costs under grant. TBI is currently coordinating the 7480 with the FAA to officially decommission Runway 14-32.

Laughton Property Preliminary Permitting Coordination: TBI sent over a work authorization amendment this week to complete design and bidding of the preliminary site work for the Laughton Property. An IFE will need to be performed. It was discussed whether to use NPE funds or BIL funds for this. The BIL funds take longer to receive. Mr. Vinson asked Mr. Talbert asked about turn-around time and he stated around 4 months. Mr. Oliver asked if the application can be started as they start the design. Mr. Talbert stated that whatever is accomplished during that time would need to be paid by the Authority and could be included in the 10% match. Mr. Talbert stated that the field work could be completed first to help with having to front so much money in the beginning. Mr. Vinson made a motion to proceed with an application for the BIL funds to complete the Laughton Property Expansion. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Talbert stated that they would start the application process immediately.

Infield Hangar Development Investigation: No change. TBI is preparing ALP Pen and Ink Update and will submit to the NCDOA once completed.

NC-101 Relocation: No change. TBI is currently coordinating the work scope with subconsultants and the Airport and will prepare a work authorization once the project scope is finalized. Mr. Oliver asked what the timing would possibly be on this project. Mr. Talbert stated that he felt like once we truly get started on it that there is then pressure on the DOA to follow up with some continued funding. Once the environmental work is accomplished for the road relocation and the runway extension, there will be funding that will follow through for those projects. Mr. Talbert stated that he believes it's entirely possible for that to be done in 4-6 years. He stated that he doesn't believe it will be quick because environmental issues just take longer, and the land acquisition takes time as well. Mr. Vinson stated that he had been told years ago that if we paid for the design work for the relocation that would show that we had "skin in the game" and would up us on the priority list as well. Mr. Oliver asked that the project be put on an agenda. Chairman Chadwick stated that he felt it was already in progress because we are acquiring property. Mr. Oliver stated that is correct, but he wants to go ahead and get it on an agenda and make their minds up.

New Business: John D'Annunzio – 2024 FAI World Skydiving Formation Championships

Mr. D'Annunzio stated that the Championships were originally to be held in Israel. With the unrest there now, it was cancelled and put out to bid. A bid was submitted and was accepted for the Championship to be held here. Chairman Chadwick stated that Chief Tony Ray of the Town of Beaufort Fire Department was here and that he would be the point of contact for the safety aspect of the event. Chairman Chadwick stated that he felt that the event was going to be great for the community and the only issue was that we had to make sure we have adequate insurance coverage. He stated that he feels that the insurance needs to be increased to \$2 million per occurrence. He also stated that our Interim County Attorney Sharon Griffin would like to have information on insurance and assets of Paraclete, Mr. D'Annunzio's company, as they will be providing an indemnity agreement in the event of an accident. Mr. Oliver stated that insurance is our primary concern. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that every athlete that participates must have a membership with the USPA United States Parachutes Association or their countries equivalent. He stated that his aircraft are all insured, and he will provide that to Attorney Sharon Griffin. Three Twin Otters will be here for the competition. Two will be used with one as a backup. Twenty-three jumpers can go up at once. Chairman Chadwick asked how many competitors they were expecting and Mr. D'Annunzio stated around 300. Most of these folks have already made their travel arrangements and will be putting money back into our community. Mr. Vinson asked about a fee for the Airport because he stated that we will have flight delays and overtime for staff. Jeff Plisko stated that he felt that the fuel sales and economic impact justified having it here. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that this was not a money-making event and that we could talk about a fee. It's a great event but they are not doing it to get rich. Mr. Vinson stated he was concerned about normal air traffic being held up and that Anthony would be run ragged and Janie as well with complaints. Chairman Chadwick mentioned a letter they had received from the Town of Beaufort in favor of the event that they used in their bid package. Mr. Oliver stated that he wanted to make sure that Mr. D'Annunzio was aware that the Town of Beaufort has no authority over the Airport. This Airport is County owned and administered by The Airport Board and he stated that we are terribly welcoming as a community and are glad the event will be held here. Nonetheless the Airport does have a budget

and we at this table are responsible for it and we would ask that you consider a \$5,000.00 contribution to help offset the cost to the Airport which will probably be greater than \$5,000.00. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that he would take it to his partners.

Chairman Chadwick asked Jeff Plisko to speak, and he stated that he owns Crystal Coast Skydiving operating out of our airport. He stated that he operates his business Thursday through Sunday. He stated that they start at 8:00 a.m. and stop at sunset daily. He stated that they do not hold up any plane traffic and are very conscious of making sure they keep in constant radio contact.

Attorney Sharon Griffin asked about the parking plan – Chad Noble stated that our parking field here will be used, and any overflow will be taken to Dead Cow Lane for parking there. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that he will be getting 12 passenger vans for transporting from the overflow parking to the Airport. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that he didn't think there would be a ton of spectators. Mr. Oliver told him not to bet on that because this is a very hospitality related area and if you give people any excuse they will come here. Ms. Griffin asked if it was during the NC Seafood Festival, and it was confirmed that the first two days of it is during the NC Seafood Festival. Mr. Plisko stated that once people who wanted to watch realized that you really cannot see a lot, they seem to lose interest and that most people would rather watch on the internet.

Mr. Oliver stated that since this is a Carteret County event, what did we have to do to try and get them to have the closing ceremonies here instead of Craven County. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that his two event coordinators came here and could not secure affordable space for the event in the County. Mr. Oliver asked Mr. D'Annunzio to look again at hosting the closing ceremony here.

Mr. D'Annunzio stated that his father really wanted them to have fireworks after the event. Gallants Channel is a possibility for that.

Mr. D'Annunzio stated that he is bringing a team May 6-8 and that they will revisit this at that time. *This was postponed due to weather conditions* Chairman Chadwick asked Ms. Mason if she would call the Crystal Coast Civic Center and inquire about the date as far as availability. UPDATE: Ms. Mason confirmed availability with Crystal Coast Civic Center and sent all contact information to Mr. D'Annunzio.

Mr. Falwell stated that he had flown into MRH a lot with the skydivers, and he had not encountered any delays or problems. Chad Noble also stated Crystal Coast Skydiving has been here since 2019 and in all that time he hadn't had any issues and didn't foresee the event causing any delays or problems. Ms. Griffin suggested that we request a security deposit of \$5,000.00 to be held in trust and an agreement that states when the event is over if everything is cleaned up and left like it was found, no major repairs have to be made, and no overtime for Airport Staff is required then the security deposit is refunded. She stated that hopefully things will go as smoothly as it sounds like it will, and it won't be an issue. Ms. Griffin stated that she would write up the agreement. She also suggested that it be in the agreement that they have a few days to make sure everything is done after the event. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that he was 100% good with that.

Mr. Oliver asked how Mr. D'Annunzio trains his volunteers and staff and when does he train them. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that he would be bringing a fueller who is already trained, but that that fueller would go through training once he gets here with our FBO Manager Chad Noble. He stated that they

would fuel about every three loads. Chairman Chadwick asked how long it takes to take them up and get back and Mr. D'Annunzio stated about twenty minutes but there are three planes. One plane is a spare in case of mechanical issues. Mr. D'Annunzio will be here on September 28th and that they will offer practice jumps before the competition begins. Mr. Falwell asked what happens if we have a Hurricane or Tropical Storm and Mr. D'Annunzio stated that the competition cannot go past October 12th regardless of weather conditions. That was a stipulation when bidding for the event. He stated it's a 10 round meet and that each team must make 10 jumps to complete it, but one round is a meet so if each team gets one jump you can declare a winner by the rules of the competition. He stated that we don't want that, of course, but we cannot control the weather.

Mr. Oliver stated that in the next week or two we need to make sure we have the insurance in place and have everything ready to go.

Mr. D'Annunzio stated that when he and his team are here May 6-10, 2024, and that the Board are welcome to come out and meet them. **Postponed due to weather conditions**

Ms. Griffin asked if Mr. D'Annunzio needed the Town or the County to send out a communication to the public about this event. Mr. D'Annunzio stated that if this was an event that for any skydiver, they might would but since this is an event of Olympic style athletes, he doesn't think it's needed. He stated that he is required to provide a boat if someone lands in the water, but he doesn't anticipate, with the level of skydivers that will be here, that that will be needed. Ms. Griffin said she thought that there would be more spectators than Mr. D'Annunzio thinks. Ms. Mason stated that it might be a good idea to put up signs that say competitors only and have spectators use Gallants Channel for watching the event. Chad Noble stated that he felt we would have to put something up closer to the church on Airport Road that states Participants Parking only.

Ms. Griffin stated that she and Mr. D'Annunzio would follow up on the insurance and indemnity agreement. She stated that she would be drawing up a use agreement regarding the security deposit and that would cover any permanent damage and any over time for airport staff. If there is none, it will be returned.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinson to go into closed session, seconded and passed unanimously.

Returned to open session.

A motion was made by Mr. Oliver to notify each ground lease lessee that has not begun construction that unless the Board has agreed with them in writing, construction will have to commence within 90 days of May 15, 2024, and be substantially completed within 12 months. The motion was seconded by Mr. Falwell and passed unanimously.

Mr. Oliver made a motion that a letter be written to Mr. Harry Smith stating that we thank him for his interest in moving his aircraft to Carteret County but that the Board is not interested in a sublease at this time. It was seconded by Mr. Falwell and passed unanimously.

Mr. Falwell made a motion that a letter be drafted to Mr. Jerald Gartman that he must have insurance on his helicopter and that no major maintenance is allowed to be done in the hangar. This a breach of the lease. All major maintenance must cease, or the hangar must be vacated. He currently stores the helicopter in someone else's hangar so a copy of the letter will be sent to that tenant as well. Mr. Vinson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Vinson, seconded and passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by: Janie Mason