

# Wicomico County Airport Commission

June 8, 2020

**Present:** Calvin Peacock, Chairman;  
John Cannon; Nola Arnold; Bud Church, Gerard DiCairano, Dave Ryan -  
Ex-Officio

**Staff:** Tony Rudy, Airport Manager

**Others:** Nick Olmstead of Kilroy Aviation; David Ryan of  
Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Development, Patrick  
Nelms, Bayland Aviation, Ron Levy

**Absent:** April Jackson; Matthew Creamer, Vice Chairman

## **Minutes**

February 10, 2020, minutes were approved.

## **Airport's Manager Report**

SBY Airport Manager, Tony Rudy presented the Airport Manager's Report, as follows:

1. **Master Plan and ALP:** Airport Manager Tony Rudy: The ALP (Airport Layout Plan) was submitted to the FAA. Approval is taking longer than expected--reached out last week (06/01/20). Delta was able to provide information on runway obstructions. They are expecting to get approval shortly.
2. **Project and Contract Status Update**
  - a. **UAS Hangar Construction:** Shell of the building was complete and the hangar door installed. Currently working on getting utilities to the building. Delmarva Power is scheduled to start working. Interior fit out is in process.
  - b. **Taxiway A:** The entire length of Taxiway A due for reconstruction. Scaled the project down into sections-- the piece between A1 and C has been completed. Applied for grants to the FAA for funding up to one million dollars to cover a portion of the costs. The rest of the project will be funded through the CARES Act. SBY Airport management is hoping to

start construction over the summer once the contract is finalized and grants are received.

- c. **Air Carrier Apron:** Work has progressed well-- changed the pacing, thus giving the contractor more area to work with. Expecting the job to finish earlier than originally planned. Work consists of taking out old joint and concrete slabs then resealing it.

**NOTE:** The airlines haven't been affected by the work and are cooperating with the airport.

- d. **Runway Rubber Removal, Crack Filling, Surface Marking Painting:** Identified and prioritized areas needed for work. Renovations for Taxiways E, F, and G are completed. In the coming weeks, rubber removal will take place-- expected to close the runway several times during the night hours to get it done. As soon as the rubber is removed, they will repaint the lines (including some taxiway lines).

- i. **Question:** "What exactly is Rubber Removal?"... When airplanes land, the tires leave skid marks. The skid marks build up over time, making the surface of the runway rubbery. Can be slippery when wet.

- e. **Airport City Water:** Contract has been completed. The County Council recently approved the Pre-Annexation Agreement.

- 3. **CARES Act Grant:** Airport has submitted a grant application to receive 18 million dollars in funding. Initially, the airport submitted for half the amount for the operation and maintenance expenses. The FAA told the airport to apply for the full amount to include expense covering for construction projects.

- i. **Projects Identified:** New Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility, Maintenance Building, Paving, Roof Rehabilitation, and adding an automated parking attendant (next year).

- 4. **Passenger Activity:** Numbers are still down, but over the past 2 weeks, numbers are starting to increase looking at about 12-15 people per flight. Parking lot is starting to fill up again. There aren't any official numbers from Piedmont, but we should be expecting those soon.

- 5. **Backfilling Assistant Manager vacancy:** The assistant manager position at the airport is open. Currently working with human resources, and are planning on advertising shortly about the opening. They are also currently looking for candidates with a good background in business development to fill the position.

### **Chairman's Report:**

### **Calvin Peacock updates as follows:**

- Drafted a thank you letter on behalf of the Airport Commission that will be forwarded to Dawn Veatch for her service as the SBY Airport Manager as soon as all the commissioners sign it.
- Wayne Strausburg is retiring, but has agreed to work with the Airport Commission as an ex-officio. This will give the Airport Commission continued access to his expertise.
- The two committees that were formed last year-- one in education to look into the STEM program, the other being marketing. We will have to come back and revisit the entire thing due to the present circumstances of the pandemic.
  - **Education:** Calvin Peacock has been trying to contact the CTE Personnel from each of the Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset Counties Board of Education. The CTE instructors have been swamped with preparing for the fall classes under the pandemic requirements. At present, STEM has been put on the backburner until the Boards of Education of the three counties have their fall programs in place. Hoping to resurrect this project in the fall.
  - **Marketing:** Initially, the Airport Commission Marketing Committee will take a low profile to give Tony Rudy time to settle in his airport manager's position and Wayne Strausburg's replacement to give guidance on SBY Airport's marketing budget and direction.

### **Questions/Open floor:**

NONE

### **Public Comments**

Nick Olmstead: There is a lot of activity going on from Kilroy Aviation's perspective and they are in discussion with several UAV Projects. One in particular that can turn into a small or medium sized UAV. They are looking to bring the project to Salisbury. They are planning on doing a Full Type Certificate Project that will be somewhere in between 500 to 1500+ hours of flight tasks to get to full approval.

Calvin Peacock: Offers any assistance to the UAV Project.

Nick Olmstead: Not at the moment, but will need to speak with Calvin Peacock and Tony Rudy about the stance on the hangar, airspace operations, and applying/controlling airspace.

Ron Levy: Now that Mark Webb's Aviation Maintenance Operation is established in the maintenance hangar, he hopes that the airport is planning to market that. He mentions

that it would be a good idea to help bring aircraft and business into SBY Airport. It would also help with fuel sales, as well as selling lunches at Rosenfeld's. He feels that it would be important to publicize.

Calvin Peacock: Mentioned that they've talked on the subject briefly. He plans to bring it up on Thursday, June 11th.

Ron Levy: Mentioned that putting a sign on the building could help.

Calvin Peacock: Will look into it and acknowledges that the maintenance side of the airport needs to grow.

### **Airport Commission Comments**

Nola Arnold: Congratulates Tony Rudy on his tentative approval!

Jerry DiCairano: Wanted to know more information about the CARES Act Grant-- in terms of how the money is going to be spent. Is there a way that the money can be applied to the runway project or hangars?

Tony Rudy: First thought to use the money for the runway project because the Master Plan is incomplete due to the environmental impact studies have not been completed . There are other requirements that the FAA has, and unfortunately cannot use the money for the runway project. Half of the money will be tucked away for operational maintenance expenses for the next 4 years. They are looking into other important projects that need to be done.

Calvin Peacock: How many empty hangars do we have?

Tony Rudy: There are two that Mark Webb had that will be opening up and a third, but he thinks it will be taken. At least two empty hangar's as of right now.

Calvin Peacock: How long is the wait list?

Tony Rudy: About a dozen people on the waiting list, some have been on the list for a while. He says Jackie Benton-Ware is working on getting them filled up.

Ron Levy: Following up on the last comment. Says he ran into someone at the airport who was asking about the requirements for clearing the non-aviation stuff out of the hangars. Mentioned that the person was upset about having to move his stuff out. Ron did explain to the person the FAA requirement, and that he isn't being singled out

personally. He also mentioned another hangar, and offered to give the hangar number to Tony Rudy.

Tony Rudy: Is aware of the situation, and will look into it personally.

Ron Levy: When you talk about building more hangars, are you talking about building T-Hangars or Box Hangars?

Jerry DiCairano: His personal preference would be 5 hangars, but whatever the demand is, he will look into.

Ron Levy: Mentions about Dawn Veatch's program that was going to build the FBO Hangar... assumed it has been stalled. Has there been any movement on that project, or has that been shelved?

Tony Rudy: That had been shelved for now due to lack of interest.

Jerry DiCairano: What about the FEMA Project? Last he heard they hired a company to prepare paperwork to submit to FEMA. Says that there are 3 different scenarios that were proposed, in all three of them they were told that they were going to be accepted when the official paperwork was finalized and submitted to FEMA by a contractor. He mentioned that FEMA was important to Dawn Veatch. How is that project progressing, and where do we stand?

Tony Rudy: The 3 missions that FEMA had-- came to conclusion that they were capable of doing them here and that they were important. They were going to use the airport as a distribution area as one of the things. That's what the hangar was for which the hangar was to be used. Tony mentioned that Dawn Veatch was looking to build a large enough hangar to fit FEMA into it when needed for redistribution of supplies. We have talked to FEDEX for the past few months, and it is certain that they will continue to stay in their facility. They will most likely do an expansion on that building/Apron. Seems to have little interest in building a larger, newer facility and that it wouldn't make sense for them. As of right now, the project is on hold.

Jerry DiCairano: Do we expect to get official approval of the 3 missions? Do you think that in the future we will move forward? Part of the whole thing was to benefit Cargo Carriers, and he believes that it wasn't FEDEX that we were concerned with, he thinks it was UPS (saying that they were complaining about having to cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge over the summer). He also thinks that they were the carrier that was most interested in flying into Salisbury. Overall, wondering that the hangar that Dawn Veatch wanted to build, are we talking about that hangar/facility that UPS would have used or is that a separate facility?

Tony Rudy: It could be for UPS as well as FEDEX. If they do have interest, that would be something to look into. Although, we wouldn't build it hoping they would come because otherwise we would be stuck with that expense.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Peacock adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday July 13, 2020. Format will be determined by the progression of the pandemic.

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**Calvin Peacock, Chairman**