

Open Work Session
Reallocation of CARES Grant Funding
May 4, 2021

Mr. Tony Rudy, Airport Manager, came before Council. He said, with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approving their first development project through the CARES funding for the taxiway A phase 2B project, they are basically deducting that amount out of the original CARES grant, and it is his understanding they will be issuing a new grant in that same amount, and that is why they had the Resolution earlier. He said the other two grants they are expecting to come in for \$1,023,818 and \$15,016 can only be used for specific items, basically operational needs, personnel costs, janitorial services, etc. He said he believes they only have a year from grant acceptance to use those funds, so they are going to try to use those first and foremost since the CARES money is good for four years down the road, which is coming up on three years now.

Mr. Rudy said, at the time they applied for the CARES Act Grant, there was very little guidance as to what the parameters were going to be for the projects identified for development at the Airport. He said, since then they found out that typically they need to follow all the federal provisions, including the Davis Bacon Act, and all the design criteria the FAA typically requires for any of these projects, construction administration, as well as reporting, which is a weekly thing that the FAA expects. He said inevitably these projects are going to be slightly increased in cost, and he figured the funds from the Coronavirus Response Relief Supplementation Appropriation Act could help offset some of those costs for those projects, so they should be in pretty good shape.

Mr. Rudy said they also identified two other needs that are fairly urgent since they created their initial list. He said, if Council has the updated spreadsheet, he can go over where these costs have been realigned and the two new projects they identified.

Mr. Rudy said the first project is the Piedmont parking lot and crosswalk. He said there is going to be some additional cost there, roughly about \$30,000 estimated to complete that project, again, with the wage rates and the construction administration that is needed.

Mr. Rudy said the second project is the taxiway A, which they just got that grant amendment for about an additional \$60,000 in increased costs.

Mr. Rudy said the next project is the ARFF building, which went from \$1.825 million to roughly \$2.513 million. He clarified, they will not know the final cost until that actually goes out to bid. He said they had that project scaled back at one point, but because of all the FAA parameters and the design of that building, the FAA requires certain things to be in that building, so that is going to bump the cost back up.

Mr. Rudy said they identified two new projects, and one is the air traffic control tower. He said there is some aging radio equipment that was identified in the past, but was not really felt to be an urgent need, and it is getting rather old now, so they felt this was a good opportunity to be able to fund new radio equipment they need in the control tower.

Mr. Rudy said this winter it became very apparent with some snow removal equipment that they have some very weak links. He clarified, if one particular piece of equipment was to go down, they could face some challenges getting snow removed in a timely fashion, which would affect flights not only for

Piedmont but for their other customers. He said they kind of developed a multifunctional piece of equipment that can be used for snow removal, loading their deicing materials, and also has a boom arm mower on it to mow some of their ditches as they have had problems in the past that is a safety concern with tractors potentially rolling over in those ditches and not being able to maintain those. He said they came up with a piece of equipment that could satisfy all of those needs as a backup piece of equipment and really help their winter operations and their summer mowing.


Mr. Rudy concluded, with all those changes, they had a very slight reduction in fiscal year 2024 for the contribution to their operations and maintenance budget, but those are the changes he is proposing.

Mr. Cannon asked if the auto parking attendant for \$150,000 means they will no longer need to hire the company they have been working with to actually handle the parking lot? He further asked if this would put in an automated process and they would no longer have a third party, to which Mr. Rudy responded, that is correct, and this will replace that contract. Mr. Cannon asked if the \$150,000 investment will save the County quite a bit over the years, to which Mr. Rudy responded, yes. Mr. Cannon said that was quite a bit of money they were spending, to which Mr. Rudy responded, it is an expensive contract and is typical for contracts like that at airports. He said they just received proposals and believes there were five, so they are currently reviewing those and they have some questions for the vendors. He said they hope the systems proposed will be fully automated and offer a remote monitoring system so, if someone has a problem in the lot, they have someone they can call and get an immediate response to resolve their problem so they are not just sitting there with no one around. He said this will mean increased revenue for the Airport going forward.

Mr. Holloway said Walston Switch Road was paved before they started putting the waterline in, and they had to tear part of it up on the northside of Mt. Hermon Road and they did a patch and they are supposed to repair that back to the original condition. He then asked if Mr. Rudy has any idea about that because he has been getting questions about when that is going to be completed, to which Mr. Rudy responded, unfortunately, that is a Public Works project, so he is not in the weeds on that. He said he knows there are several areas in the technology park and the taxiway going to the drone hangar, and they recently cut across Airport Road. He said he can follow up on this, but it is his guess that they are planning on patching those all at one time. Mr. Holloway asked what the one that cuts across Airport Road into the industrial park was for, to which Mr. Rudy responded, it comes across Walston Switch and across Airport Road. He said the actual waterline runs on the west side of Airport Road, so there will be other areas that cross Airport Road to get to the terminal, to Piedmont, and to the hangars, and then eventually where it cuts across by Bayland Aviation. Mr. Holloway clarified, he is talking about where Walston Switch Road used to come out where it goes into that industrial park on the west side of the Airport. He said it looks like they were putting piping in there. He then asked if that has something to do with the Airport, to which Mr. Rudy responded, yes, that is part of the waterline. Mr. Holloway asked if the County is furnishing water to that industrial park on the west side of the road, to which Mr. Rudy responded, the industrial park is more on the southeast side of the Airport over by FedEx. Mr. Holloway said he is talking about the west side of Airport Road. Mr. Rudy asked if Mr. Holloway means the undeveloped area, to which Mr. Holloway responded, yes. Mr. Rudy said no, this is strictly for the Airport. Mr. Holloway asked if what they were doing there had anything to do with the Airport, to which Mr. Rudy responded, no.

Mr. Dodd asked if this will need to be done by Resolution, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, yes, she recommends this comes back before Council for formal approval at the next Council meeting.

There was no further discussion.



Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3

Joe Holloway, Vice President, District 5


John T. Cannon, At-Large


William R. McCain, At-Large


Ernest F. Davis, District 1


Nicole Acle, District 2


Josh Hastings, District 4


Laura Hurley, Council Administrator