

# TEXARKANA AIRPORT AUTHORITY MINUTES

9:00 AM – Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

A regular meeting of the Texarkana Regional Airport was held in the Airport Air Rescue Fire Fighting Building, 2500 TXK Blvd, Texarkana, Arkansas.

## Call to Order/Roll Call

### TEXAS

Chair Mr. Mike Mayo ✓  
Mr. Matt Robertson ✓  
Mr. David Potter ✓  
Mr. David Baumgardner ✓

### ARKANSAS



Vice-Chair Mr. Adger Smith ✓  
Dr. Robin Hickerson ✗  
Mr. Ray Abernathy ✓  
Mr. Ronald Bruce ✓

Mr. Rob Sitterley ✗  
Economic Representative

Mr. Paul Mehrlich ✓  
Executive Director of Aviation

**Roll Call:** Mike Mayo called the meeting to order. Angie Clinton called the roll.

## **Guests and Public Comments:**

|                  |  |                  |                |             |
|------------------|--|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Mitch Rose       | Ken Shuman   | Craig Harland    | Jordan Culver  | Cindy Snell |
| Matthew Vineyard | Mike Rose  | Jennifer Harland | Vicki Reeder   |             |
| Billy Mayfield   | Eric Pfeifer  | Eric Hopkins     | Juanita Greene |             |
| Brandon Sanders  | Mark Stodola  | Irene Hale       | Phyllis Hooker |             |

## **Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes of Meeting scheduled Feb 29, 2024
- Financial Report – Period Ending Feb 29, 2024

Ronald Bruce made a motion to approve the Feb 2024 Minutes of Meeting and Financial Report Period Ending Feb 29, 2024; Matt Robertson seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

**Master Plan Briefing:** Paul Mehrlich gave a brief summary on the final draft. He explained that there is a 20-year plan for future projects with federal funding and a review at 10 years. He said the next stage before funding will be for the FAA to accept the Master Plan.

## **Public Comments:**

- Cindy Snell expressed displeasure about the extension of the runway.
- Eric Hopkins said this extension affects not just now but 10 years down the road and that their property values will go down.
- Craig Harland asked why develop his neighborhood instead of other unused properties.
- Jennifer Harland wants to see the airport succeed but not at the expense of the neighborhood properties. She feels taxpayer dollars should not be used to move them from homes and believes current senators do not know all the details and that he would not approve.
- Vicki Reeder asked about the legality for rebuttal to the Master Plan or who at FAA they can talk to. To this, Paul Mehrlich and Eric Pfeifer explained the process of the Master Plan and FAA's acceptance. Mr. Mehrlich explained that the Board has the ability to take the property language out but cautioned that they will only be able to sell to the public on the open market and that the FAA won't buy at that point.

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**Airport Director's Report:** Paul Mehrlich presented the Director's Report with updates on the various phases of the new terminal and wrapping up grant closures. Mr. Mehrlich gave an update on the apron phases and terminal parking lot. Although inclement weather has slowed the process, work is still being done and paving on the parking lot should be done by the end of April with the crack seal project beginning April 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mehrlich also mentioned that MCE will coordinate with Flight Solutions on obtaining bids for the apron work.

The Director gave a summary on the runway and taxiway strengthening. The Airport has received FAA's determination letter, and MCE is preparing the environmental documentation submission to the FAA. He informed the Board that THUD Appropriations Bill was passed and that he will continue to collaborate with contacts in Congress regarding the taxiway portions. Additionally, Mr. Mehrlich will be submitting environmental reviews with the FAA. He informed that the DME equipment building is in the zone, therefore, the extension will be reduced to about 490'. Work Order #14 for the design of the extension was provided by MCE and will be paid out of the community funded project. There was a motion by David Potter to approve the amount of \$480,376.97, and this was seconded by Adger Smith. None opposed.

Mr. Mehrlich discussed the final draft of the Master Plan and the next steps with the two cities and FAA. He mentioned this process could take about six months.

It was mentioned that the website is wrapping up and will be launched by the end of April.

With regards to Harvest Ministries, it was expressed that an easement is covered in the language of the existing Clear Zone Easement.

The Advertising Committee selected Advantage Aviation as the top marketing company for the Airport's advertising needs. It was to proceed into a 3-year agreement with two 1-year options with Advantage Aviation. It was taken to a vote; all agreed; none opposed.

Mr. Mehrlich announced that Brandon Sanders and his team are working on the MOU with the Chamber and AR side joining in for the proposed air show. The airport's role will be the same. A legal review of the MOU will be done before signing.

There was a brief discussion on the broken brake system for the Avgas fuel truck at Signature. They expressed no timeline for vehicle replacement. This presents an opportunity to have further discussions about a self-serve tank for GA traffic.

Finally, coinciding with the move to the new terminal and the renewing of tenant leases, Mr. Mehrlich believes this is an opportune time to have discussions about the current rates and fees. It was recommended that a committee meet to discuss then present recommendations to the Board.

#### **Resolutions:**

- Consider and approve entering into 3-year agreement with two 1-year options with Advanced Aviation Marketing – This was put to a vote, and all approved.
- Consider and approve Work Order #14 \$480,376.97 for Runway Extension Design – David Potter made a motion; Adger Smith seconded the motion. None opposed; approval was unanimous.

#### **Old/New Business:**

- Brandon Sanders talked about student pilots dealing with crosswinds and is concerned about the closing of a runway. He was asked to keep the Board informed about the budget for the upcoming airshow.

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- Ronald Bruce asked the Board if they could address and answer some of the public's comments. In addition to the Public Comments above, Paul Mehrlich addressed some of the issues. He explained that the last Master Plan was in 1993 and that the extension of the runway was detailed in that plan as well. He mentioned that the Airport could grant an easement in the Runway Protection Zone but that it is not owned by the Airport. David Potter asked the community about the erosion on their road, and there was a brief discussion from the public.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjourn:** David Potter made a motion to adjourn. Ray Abernathy seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.