

# **Minutes**

## **Regular Board Meeting**

### **Aviation Council of Alabama**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held on December 10, 2003, at the Montgomery Regional Airport. Board members present were Mr. John Lehrter, A.A.E., President; Colonel Roosevelt Lewis, Vice President; Mr. Tom Sharp, Treasurer; Mr. William Hutto, A.A.E., Secretary; Ms. Betty Meyer, Acting Executive Director; Daniel Boone, Esq.; Ms. Luanne Hayes; Mr. Kent Kelly; Mr. Russ Kilgore; Mr. Bill Parker; and Mr. Phil Perry. Others in attendance were Ms. Stephanie Blankenship, Airport Manager, Headland Municipal Airport; Ms. Mary Lynn Fraser, Executive Assistant, Henry County Economic Development Authority; and Ms. Robin Jones, Padgett Business Services of Huntsville.

President John Lehrter, A.A.E., called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m.

President Lehrter then declared a quorum.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes from the October 1, 2003, regular Board of Directors meeting were considered. Mr. Sharp motioned for approval; seconded by Ms. Hayes. All voted aye.

#### **Financial Report**

Mr. Tom Sharp presented the financial reports for October and November. Ms. Hayes motioned for approval of the financial report; seconded by Mr. Kilgore. All voted aye.

#### **Old Business**

**ACA Annual Conference** – Ms. Meyer reported that the conference program is now complete and will soon be printed and put on the website. Additional speakers, however, are still needed for some of the sessions. Ms. Meyer also said that the proxy vote form is now in draft form and will be mailed to the members prior to the conference in accordance with the bylaws. Mr. Kilgore made a motion to enter into contracts with Mr. Jim Tucker and Mr. Ralph Hood to speak at the conference; seconded by Mr. Boone. All voted aye.

**Legislative Committee** – Colonel Lewis suggests that the Board develop its own funding bill. He also suggested that the Board continue to work with Representative Knight and Representative Starkey. Specific details, such as the source of funds, will need to be considered.

**Channeling Committee** – Colonel Lewis said that Dr. John Eagerton, in a recent meeting, informed him that recommendations to the channeling procedures have been submitted to Mr. Joe McInnes. Colonel Lewis suggested that the Board write a letter to Mr. McInnes requesting input on the recommended changes. He also recommended that invitations to the next Board meeting be extended to Mr. McInnes and Dr. Eagerton. Mr. Sharp also suggested that the Board should request input on any proposals for funding proposed by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

**Membership Recruitment** – Ms. Hayes said the committee is planning to start membership recruiting efforts in earnest in January. Personal letters will be mailed, and she will ask the Board to personally contact prospective members in their geographical areas.

**Nominating Committee** – Mr. Sharp stated that a letter was written to Lt. Governor Baxley nominating Mr. Kilgore to serve on the newly formed Homeland Security Task Force, and he has been subsequently appointed. Mr. Sharp also presented the committee's proposed slate of officers and Board members to be considered at the annual conference: Past President, John Lehrter; President, Colonel Lewis; Vice President, Tom Sharp; Treasurer, Russ Kilgore; and Secretary, Bill Hutto. All current Board members are renominated. Ms. Meyer motioned to approve the committee's recommendations; seconded by Mr. Kelley. All voted aye.

**Alabama Homeland Security Task Force** – Mr. Kilgore announced that the first meeting is Friday, December 12, 2003.

**Tuskegee Airmen Project** – Colonel Lewis announced that the project is now moving forward and said the letter submitted by the ACA has been helpful.

### **New Business**

**Board Resignation** – due to business commitments, Dwight Jennings has submitted his resignation from the Board. President Lehrter suggested that the Board begin to think about a replacement from western Alabama in an effort to meet the ACA's goal of having geographic representation from the state.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Meyer announced the receipt of new member applications (copy attached). Mr. Kilgore motioned to approve the new members; seconded by Ms. Hayes. All voted aye.

- The P.O. Box address will expire at the end of the year. Ms. Meyer suggested that Padgett Business Services of Huntsville be used as the ACA's official address. All agreed.
- The League of Municipalities has asked that the Board consider purchasing a promotional package for their upcoming conference. The cost is \$1,500. Mr. Sharp motioned to approve the expenditure; seconded by Colonel Lewis. All voted aye.
- Ms. Meyer announced that 4,400 copies of the recent newsletter were mailed and that the website received a record number of "hits" in November.
- The Mississippi Airports Association has asked that the ACA join their organization; the cost is \$100 per year. Ms. Meyer suggested that the Board offer that reciprocal memberships be exchanged. All agreed.
- The Economic Development Association of Alabama has requested legislative information from the ACA. Ms. Meyer will forward them information that Colonel Lewis and she discussed during a recent meeting.

A group of pilots may file a lawsuit against the state for the inconsistency in the application of ad valorem property taxes on aircraft across the state. The group has asked if the ACA is interesting in join them. The Board, by consensus, agreed not to join the lawsuit.

**ALDOT Audit Letter** – the letter recently received by airports from ALDOT was briefly discussed. The Board recognizes and encourages public accountability but feels that the audits that are currently being done as part of the FAA grant requirements should suffice. Colonel suggested that airports may consider proactively sending the state copies of previous audits.

**The Bloom Group** – the contract with The Bloom Group expires at the end of the month of December. It costs \$3,000 per month. Mr. Kilgore motioned not to continue the contract; seconded by Mr. Perry. All voted aye. The Board stressed that the services that have been provided are appreciated, but the ACA's finances are dictating this decision.

**Lt. Governor Baxley** – President Lehrter said that Lt. Governor Baxley has expressed an interest in learning more about the value of airports. He suggests that we offer to give her a briefing. Mr. Kilgore volunteered to make the invitation to her.

**Executive Director** – President Lehrter reminded the Board that Ms. Meyer has only agreed to serve as the ACA's Executive Director on a temporary basis; he said the Board should consider how to address this position on a permanent basis. Ms. Meyer agreed that it is time for the Board to consider hiring someone. Mr. Hutto suggested that the Nominating Committee explore options and bring back suggestions to the Board. Mr. Sharp said the committee will assume the task. All agreed.

**Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be January 14, at 10:30 a.m. in the offices of the Montgomery Airport Authority.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

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John B. Lehrter, A.A.E.  
President

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William T. Hutto, Jr., A.A.E  
Secretary