

AIRPORT PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Monday – November 14, 2022

District #1: Brad Ketcher	Business: Jeff Northgraves	Environmental: Linda Garat
District #2: Roger Peabody	Owls Head: Adam Philbrook	Commercial Pilot: Aladar Nesser
District #3: Dick Witherspoon	Flying Club: TJ Copeland	STH: Jan Gaudio
Airport Business: Bill Packard		

Members present: Bill Packard, Dick Witherspoon, Jeff Northgraves, Linda Garat, Roger Peabody, Adam Philbrook, TJ Copeland.

Non-members present: Jeremy Shaw (Manager), Dorothy Meriwether (County Commissioner)

CALLED TO ORDER: Chair Bill Packard called the meeting to order @ 5:00PM.

RECOGNIZED GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Ken Wexler, Pam Maus, Lewis Edwards, Tom Dodge, Jo Dodge, Lynn Chaplin, Kathy Allain, Carson Corchaine, Michael Keating, Ginter Alyson. Ken Wexler commented about the 2009 version of the business plan, and handed out abbreviated copies of the document to committee members. He requested that the airport and the County possibly consider a noise study. There were no additional public comments.

Act to approve the Minutes from the July 11th, and July 26th meetings: Jeff Northgraves made a motion to approve the July 11, 2022 meeting minutes with the request for the airport manager to verify the attendance request made by Adam Philbrook. TJ Copeland seconded the motion. The vote was in favor of the motion 6-0-1 with Adam Philbrook abstaining. The Chair then asked for a motion for the July 26th meeting minutes. Roger Peabody made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Jeff Northgraves seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0-1 in favor of the motion with Adam Philbrook abstaining.

REVIEW THE KNOX COUNTY AIRPORT 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (5-YEAR CIP) AND ASSOCIATED PROJECTS: The Airport Manager gave a presentation on the Airport's Capital Improvement Plan. The manager explained that after the County received the ARPA funds, the County's legal team determined that all federal funds needed to be approved by the budget committee and the Knox County Commission. The manager explained that this plan changes every year, and only reflects the County's highest priority at the time it is created. The manager went on to explain that after the CARES Act projects, the airport now goes into a maintenance mode, maintaining pavement, addressing obstructions, and keeping surfaces painted. During a review of the project list, member Adam Philbrook expressed his concern over the additional tax burden from the AIP project recovering up to \$150,000 from the Benner Lane purchase. His concern was that the taxpayers would now be on the hook for \$900,000. He explained that taxpayers would be paying \$750,000 for the purchase, and then another \$150,000 to pay the County back for the value of the land. Jeff Northgraves stated that the taxpayers would only be paying \$150,000 for the property, and that the remainder of the payment comes from Airport revenue. After a 20 minute discussion on that project, Chair Packard asked the manager to continue with his presentation of the CIP. The manager continued reading the list of projects until the Easement Acquisition Project. Member Adam Philbrook asked if the FAA uses approved foresters to be able to determine if trees will grow any higher or not, so the County isn't buying easements on trees that won't be growing any taller. Jeff Northgraves commented that the FAA can determine what the anticipated tree growth would be, and that usually an engineering firm goes out and does the leg work, and then provides it to the FAA. The manager continued reading the list. At the end of the presentation, the manager asked if there were any questions, and Ken Wexler asked about the feasibility of doing a noise abatement study. The manager stated that a noise abatement study would be a responsible use of County funds. Pam Maus asked if any projects listed on the CIP could be considered development projects. The manager stated that all of the projects on the list were maintenance in nature, only. Pam Maus asked also about how the community will have input regarding the master plan. Jeff described the process. Lewis Edwards commented about the need for PAPI's (Precision Approach Path Indicators). The Airport Manager explained that Runway's 3 and 21 are no longer eligible for federal funding. The manager also explained that PAPI's are not possible currently on runway 21 due to the trees on the approach are too high. There were no additional comments.

ACT TO APPROVE AND RECOMMEND THE 5-YEAR CIP TO THE KNOX COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS: After the previous discussion, Chair Packard asked for a motion regarding the Airport's 5-year CIP. Jeff Northgraves made a motion to approve and recommend the 5-year CIP to the Knox County Commission. Linda Garat seconded the motion. Chair Packard called for a vote. The vote was 6-1 with Adam Philbrook voting in opposition of the motion. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION/ACT TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION REGARDING THE SOLAR PROJECT:

The Airport Manager gave an update of the Solar Project. Revision Energy is unable to meet the Buy-American requirement as needed to meet the CARES Act requirements. A discussion was had about whether the County had any interest in abandoning its solar ambitions, and entering into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Revision. There was no interest in that. The conversation then moved on to the difference between a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 solar panel, and what implications each type of panel had. Revision's issue is that the Tier 1 panel that they prefer to use is only 3.7% made with American components, where a Tier 2 panel is greater than 60% American made. A discussion was had about going to the 2nd highest scoring bidder of Pine Tree Solar, but first, the committee requested additional information regarding Tier 2 panels.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Environmental Subcommittee: (No report)
- Operations Subcommittee: (No report)
- Public Relations Subcommittee: Kathy Allain reported that the public relations subcommittee met and worked on two press releases. Commissioner Meriwether complimented Kathy and team for their efforts, and encouraged them to do more public outreach by the way of positive press releases for the County.

AIRPORT MANAGER UPDATES: The Airport Manager gave a brief update on the ongoing projects. The only notable update is that the Terminal Hangar project completion date has been delayed until at least February 2023.

MEETING ADJOURNED: TJ Copeland made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roger Peabody. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2023, at 5pm.