

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING – SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 – 5:01 P.M.**

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**Call to Order**

Chair Coppola read the meeting notice into the record (copy attached).

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Chair Coppola called a recess until a quorum was reached.

Meeting reconvened at 5:04 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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**Present:** Chair Coppola; Commissioners Lee and Seay; Executive Director Quill; Attorney Garrard; Assistant Director Parish; Mrs. Cauley and Mrs. Schindler. **Absent:** Commissioners Herston and Stasko.

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

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Commissioner Seay asked for a Moment of Silence for the Ambassador the United States lost in Libya due to what she considers terrorism, and to ask for God's intervention in overseeing our government to assure that the freedoms that we have here in this country are not threatened and that we do preserve them.

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**Tentative Budget (copy attached)** – Mr. Quill explained that the reimbursement for the Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) is going to drop from \$23 per hour to \$20 per hour and that has been changed. He explained that Capital Improvements have been changed to \$80,000 for a truck and rolling stock. He commented that money for a tractor was going to be put in but staff has discovered that if the tractor is ordered before October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Authority can save \$5,000. It will be paid for out of the current year budget. He pointed out that under marketing it is \$80,000 but keep in mind that the Authority received a grant for \$140,000 from USDOT for marketing and will be putting \$30,000 of the \$80,000 towards that as a match and the County's Tourism is funding \$30,000. He commented that there is a total of \$200,000 for marketing for airline service. He commented that there is more money than the Authority ever has had for marketing. Commissioner Lee opined that money needs to be spent on marketing. He asked if the airline contributes toward marketing. Mr. Quill explained they do their own but this may be an incentive for Allegiant or any other airline that might come along. Chair Coppola asked what kind of input will the Authority have from the County. Mr. Quill explained that he will continue to meet with Mrs. Steiner on how to proceed. He explained that the expenses have to be approved by the USDOT but not pre-approved. Commissioner Seay asked if any of the money can be used for a study to see where the people are going to and where they live. Mr. Quill explained not this money but he did talk with Mrs. Steiner about a survey questionnaire to see if the Chamber has some volunteers to conduct it. Commissioner Seay commented that the Tea Party may have some people to volunteer. She opined that the budget has some very positive projections. Chair

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Coppola asked if the Authority re-negotiated with the Sheriff's Office on their fees. Mr. Quill explained that since the Sheriff couldn't give the deputies a raise, the Sheriff raised the rate for off duty officers that is now specified in the Union Agreement with a substantially higher rate that went from \$23 per hour to \$43 per hour. Commissioner Seay suggested using Fish and Wildlife or Florida Highway Patrol and they are not in that union. Mr. Quill commented that staff did talk to Fish and Game and FHP but they don't have a pool you can pull from for that many days. He commented that they are exploring using the Sheriff's Office deputies as a permanent detail for straight time. Commissioner Seay suggested the police department at the Ft. Myers Airport. Mr. Quill explained that staff did talk to the City's police department but the City has to be delegated by the Sheriff's Office and the City's rate is higher than the Sheriff. Commissioner Seay asked if the Department of Corrections has arrest powers. Mr. Quill commented that they can check. Chair Coppola asked if there is an agreement with the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Coulter stated that there is. Commissioner Seay commented that the contract can be canceled. Chair Coppola asked if there have been any incidents that the Authority needed police protection. Mr. Quill explained that there has to be a guarantee that the LEO has to be here within five minutes. He commented that there have been several incidents. Mr. Coulter explained that the Security Directive dictates what police protection has to be present. Commissioner Seay asked how many are here. Mr. Coulter stated one for every shift. Mr. Parish explained that they are hired for a three hour minimum. They come before the flight, stay for the flight and do a sweep of the ramp. Commissioner Lee suggested keeping options open. **Commissioner Seay made the motion to approve the Tentative Budget. Commissioner Lee seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

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Kathleen Coppola, Chair

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Gary Stasko, Secretary/Treasurer