

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 16, 2014 – 9:00 A.M.**

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Invocation**

10           Commissioner Andrews gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Roll Call**

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**Present:** Chair Lee; Commissioners Andrews, Herston and Seay; Executive Director Quill; Attorney Garrard; Assistant Director Parish; Mrs. Cauley; Mr. Laroche; Mr. Mallard; Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Sutcliffe. **Others present:** Jim Kaletta, Lionel Schuman, Gary Bayne, Chuck Reinhardt, Councilman Cavanaugh, Commissioner Truex, Lisa Waters, Carl Parsons, other people from the private sector and a member of the press. **Absent:** Commissioner Coppola.

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**5. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda**

25           There were none.

**6. Citizen's Input**

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**Lionel Schuman** - Commented that the Airport was built prior to World War II and the Curtiss P40 and P51 Mustangs were stationed at the Airport. He commented that they produced a lot of noise and that noise from aircraft is not new in Charlotte County. He responded to the people who complain about the noise of the airlines and are forming groups to eliminate the operations of the airline flights. He commented that the Airport is an economic driving force for the area in Charlotte County. He thanked the administration and staff for their efforts on behalf of the Airport. He commented that Allegiant Air has made PGD its home, which enables the citizens to fly to 23 cities from Punta Gorda. He commented that Allegiant Airlines brings in tourist, potential business people and potential home buyers which will boost the local economy. He explained that the Airport is self-sustained and does not receive any funding. He commented on the speed that an aircraft takes off and it taking a few seconds to pass over a household. He commented that during those few seconds the community reaps the benefits of \$143,000,000. He commented that if the noise is truly intolerable he suggested they seek other places to inhabit.

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Commissioner Seay opined that Mr. Schuman statement was a very powerful statement from a member of the community. She asked if it would be possible to add Mr.

Schuman's statement to the record in its entirety. **Commissioner Herston made a motion to approve the inclusion of Mr. Lionel Schuman's letter in its entirety to the Board's minutes for next month. Commissioner Seay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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## 7. Consent Agenda

**Commissioner Seay made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Andrews seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

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## 8. Secretary/Treasurer' Report

Mr. Quill commented that the financials are a draft because it is early in the month. He commented that the revenues are an estimate, particularly on rental cars. He commented that the Authority had a pretty good month. He commented that the Authority receives an insurance refund once a year and the budget for the year is ahead. He reported that the progress in Accounts Receivable is improving.

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## 9. Committee Report

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a) **Land Use** - Commissioner Herston reported that the big news in the County is that the staff continues to work on the Unified Land Development Code. He commented that a draft has not been provided to the commissioners. He reported on the private side that he was authorized to do a rezoning in Lee County. He reported that the City of Palmetto continues to be difficult approving a hotel.

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b) **Economic Development** - Chair Lee had nothing to report.

c) **Personnel** - Mr. Quill reported that Mr. Ray Laroche was hired to take over the security functions. He commented that Mr. Laroche had worked for TSA. Mr. Laroche introduced himself and gave some of his background to the Board.

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d) **Public Relations/Special Events** - Nothing to report.

e) **Governmental Liaison** - Commissioner Seay reported that she had talked with the Authority's liaison, Jerry Paul. She explained what the committees do before the start of the Legislative session. She commented that she is tracking a few bills but nothing is of interest to the Authority with the exception of a few minor ones. She reported that one bill is talking about strategic airport investments which will allow for additional financing of aviation and airport programs up to 100% of the cost through the Florida Department of Transportation. She opined that this one would be a great opportunity for the Airport if it comes up. She commented that FAC is looking at it, but it is in a proposal stage. She reported tracking Senate Bill 586 which talks about Brownfields and one item in the bill would allow the use of a term other than Brownfield area. She congratulated the City of Punta Gorda on the Loop annexation. She commented on a note from NBC2 "eventually the council wants to incorporate

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the Airport”. She opined that annexation of the Airport is a very bad idea. She commented on the noise issue in the news weekly saying the Airport has to eliminate noise and if the noise is eliminated you eliminate the Airport. She commented that every complaint that the Authority receives related to Airport noise comes from the City of Punta Gorda and various areas of the City of Punta Gorda with the exception of the area on Bermont Road. She commented that the Authority is working on the noise issue on the Bermont Road area. She commented that the Authority cannot eliminate noise and planes do not parachute out of the sky and land in the Airport. She commented that the Authority is looking at what the Authority can do to limit the noise so it is not disruptive and have the ability to address that. She commented that since all of the noise complaints come from the City of Punta Gorda, which is the governmental entity that would have ultimate oversight with ordinances, such as noise ordinances, she opined that it would be a very bad idea for the Airport. She commented that there are other reasons, such as zoning, services and taxes. She opined that the Authority needs to be watchful and observant making sure that there are no adverse impacts on the Airport and Airport operations. She commented that the Authority has airplanes and they will make noise. Chair Lee agreed with Commissioner Seay commenting that the Authority does not need the City of Punta Gorda telling the Authority what should and should not be done.

**f) Metropolitan Planning Organization** - Commissioner Herston reported that he will be going to the MPOAC meeting in Orlando with Mr. Herrington. He reported that there will be a joint meeting with the Sarasota/Manatee MPO for coordination as dictated by the FDOT.

**g) Aviation Activities Report** - Commissioner Andrews reported that the last three months things are stable. He reported that Avgas sales have been consistent for the last three months. He reported an increase in jet fuel and airline fuel for the month of December. He reported that for the month of December the enplanements and deplanements were up 144% over 2012. He reported that there were 4,783 operations by the tower for the month of December. He reported 21 vacancies in the 600 series hangars and 1 vacancy in the 200 series hangars for the month of December. He reported that Allegiant Air serves 23 cities. He commented that it is shaping up to be an excellent year and he is looking forward to this year.

**10. Attorney’s Report**

Attorney Garrard had nothing to report.

**11. Executive Director’s Report**

**a) Development Update** - Mr. Parish reported that the long term parking lot expansion was completed in December and it was 100% full at Thanksgiving and Christmas. He commented that during Christmas the Authority had 21 cars in the overflow lot and that you do not want to build additional parking for peaks. He opined that with the new parking lot and the rental car parking area the Authority is well positioned. He

5 reported that the Authority continues to work with the FAA and the Authority will  
start back on the design phase for the terminal. He commented that the FAA has  
bought off on all the Authority's programming numbers for the terminal. He reported  
that the Authority submitted a preliminary grant application so the Authority will be  
10 in the gaming cycle for money as the AIP funds are doled out. He reported that the  
preliminary construction on the terminal is estimated to start in September and it  
would be a 12 month process to build. He reported on the peak hour passenger  
numbers that the FAA has agreed to. He stated that one of the problems the Authority  
has is regarding the Terminal Area Forecast (TAF), the FAA's forecast for growth  
15 shows that the Airport is not growing. He commented that the Authority could  
change that but it would take 4 to 5 years to get a TAF approved. He opined that it is  
better to work within the TAF and get something when it is needed. He commented  
that the Authority is working within the TAF and the Authority is using a couple of  
methods accepted by the FAA and the Authority is where it wants to be. He  
20 commented that the terminal is bigger than originally proposed, and the grant  
application was bigger than what the Authority had originally submitted. He  
commented that the Authority played by the rules and the Authority has done  
everything that the FAA has asked. He reported that the continuing design will be  
kicked off next week.

20 **b) Entrance Sign** - Mr. Parish asked the Board to e-mail him comments, suggestions  
and questions on the preliminary sign designs found in their packets. He commented  
that something will be brought to the next Board meeting for approval. He explained  
that the signs will go on the berms on Viking Avenue. Commissioner Herston asked  
25 whether Berlin Signs will be getting a designer or do it in-house. Mr. Parish  
commented that Berlin Signs have in-house designers. There was discussion on the  
cost of the signs. Commissioner Herston asked if the TAF will support two or three  
airlines. Mr. Parish commented that it supports four simultaneous operations.

30 **c) Holiday Update** - Mr. Quill commented that 970 spaces were used in the parking lot  
over the holidays, excluding rental cars and employee parking. He stated that you  
cannot build for peak conditions because it is expensive. He explained that the  
Authority can utilize the grass for overflow parking and gage how to get through the  
35 year and what the Authority will do in coming years. He reported that the Authority  
will put out for bids for an ARRF vehicle and submit a grant to purchase a vehicle,  
and in the interim the Authority will lease a second ARRF vehicle. He reminded the  
Board to RSVP to Airtrek's invitation for an event they are having on January 30th.  
He reported that the House and Senate Appropriations Committee agreed on language  
40 for statutorily protective funding for the contract tower program and that the  
Authority has been at this for 11 months. He commented that the Authority was  
incredibly busy at Christmas with a lot of people flying. There was discussion on the  
parking lot during peak conditions.

## 45 **12. Old Business**

## **13. New Business**

5 a) **Noise Mitigation** - Mr. Quill commented that the Authority is continuing to work on noise. He reported that the Authority has been monitoring and working with the air carriers. He reported that Allegiant Air had a couple of companies fly for them and the Authority had to instruct the new carriers on the noise procedures. He reported that the Authority is working with the air traffic control locally and with RSW. He commented that the Authority will be meeting with Lisa Waters, who is the Authority's noise consultant, after the meeting. He commented that the Authority will provide an update at the next meeting.

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#### 14. Citizen's Input

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**Gary Bayne** - Updated the Board on the Cheney Brothers Distribution construction schedule. He reported that they are going over the bids that were received on a site civil package. He commented that construction will start in six weeks. He commented that they have received their SWFWMD permit and they will meet with the County for their site review process. He commented that everything is ahead of schedule and activity will be seen shortly on the site work. He commented that the building is 340,000 square feet with 250 parking spaces and an additional 120 parking spaces for trucks. He commented that the demolition work will take two to three months because of the FEMA trailers. He explained that the sewer lines were left in the ground and they have to be dug out and the dirt compacted. He explained that will be the first activity that will be seen. He commented that there would be 300 jobs for the first phase and a final build out of 525,000 sq. ft. with up to 630 jobs when it is finished. Commissioner Herston asked what the estimated construction time would be. Mr. Bayne commented that that it will be 12 to 15 months because of all the site work that needs to be done. He commented that FEMA had put in three feet of fill, but because of the size of the building and the storm water sites another 3 ½ feet of fill is going to be needed. He commented that there is a lot of site work being done and they are importing 250,000 yards of material. He commented that there will be a lot of truck traffic over a course of six months. Commissioner Herston asked if the Authority had any fill that could be utilized. Mr. Bayne commented that being the Authority's site engineer for landside he recommended not using the Authority's fill because when the Authority would need fill the Authority would have to pay the transportation cost which would be cost prohibitive. Mr. Parish commented that the dirt was used in the rental car lot and the long term parking lot. He commented that if the Authority does develop additional parking, the Authority will need some fill. Commissioner Herston asked if the Authority uses the fill would there be a cost to the Authority. Mr. Parish commented that the cost to the Authority would be the trucking. Commissioner Herston asked if Cheney Brothers are going to do anything with compressed natural gas. Mr. Bayne commented that Cheney Brothers are testing a few of their vehicles and are working with a company called No Petro and they are leasing a truck for a month testing it to see how it would handle their operations. He opined that they will convert some of their fleet but not all of their fleet to compressed natural gas. He commented that compressed natural gas is cheaper now because they are not paying road tax. He opined that as soon as there are more natural gas vehicles being used the government will put on a gas tax and it will be just as high as diesel. Commissioner

Herston commented that it would be cleaner. He asked if Mr. Bayne has permitted for compressed natural gas. Mr. Bayne commented that they did not. He commented that they have their own fueling depot and they were putting plans together for compressed natural gas but it wouldn't fit on the property. Commissioner Herston commented that  
5 525,000 is the ultimate square footage and it doesn't include a CNG. Mr. Bayne commented that he has talked to several companies and they want to occupy someplace on the Airport property, ECAP, on Highway 17 or on Jones Loop Road. He commented that Charlotte County School Board has negotiated with No Petro to convert the school bus fleet. He commented that the City of Punta Gorda is talking with No Petro. He  
10 commented that the Carmelita site will be open to the public. He commented that he did not know whether Cheney Brothers will bring their trucks down to the Carmelita site. Chair Lee commented that in hindsight the Authority should have made a better deal with FEMA.

**Jim Kaletta** - Commented on an email that he had sent regarding a pamphlet that he thought would be good publicity for the Airport. He commented that several of the airports in the area have pamphlets which talks about their airport, industrial parks and opportunities. He opined that it would be a good vehicle to put the noise abatement in. He commented that it is inexpensive and he stated that some of the stuff is on the internet,  
20 but most people don't go there to look for this type of information. He commented that he had picked up several pamphlets from different airports and he would be happy to work with the Authority on this.

**Councilman Cavanaugh** - Thanked Commissioner Seay for her comments on the annexation on the Loop. He commented that it would not have happened without the co-operation that the City received from the County. He commented, for the record, that many cities peacefully co-exist with airports within their jurisdiction. He commented that he came from one in New York and there were several. He commented that cities are precluded from law by inacting any laws or ordinances that may affect the  
25 performance of an airport. He commented that he continues to look forward to a mutually rewarding relationship with the Airport. He thanked everyone and he wished everyone a Happy New Year.

## 15. Commissioners Comments

**Commissioner Herston** - Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Commissioner Seay** - Commented on the promotional material for the City of Punta Gorda. She commented that those who complain about noise have family who arrived here on airplanes. She commented that those who think that reducing the Airports noise factor is going to be helpful, but to think about all the folks that want to come here and if you can't get here by an airplane they are going to go somewhere else. She commented on making sure that there is always an airport that serves the entire County. She opined that Punta Gorda has a lot of beautiful areas, there is Englewood and the beaches, kayaking and nature trails and a lot going on around the County. She commented that the  
40 Airport is more than just one city. She opined that it is better served by having this

Airport continue to be part of the entire County as opposed to being a part of the City. She commented that it is a beautiful city but does not want to be part of the City. She commented on how nice the promotional piece is for the City.

5           **Commissioner Andrews** - Thanked everyone for coming. He thanked Commissioner  
 Truex for being here and Councilman Cavanaugh for his comments. He thanked Mr.  
 Schuman for his comments. He commented that being member of AOPA for a number  
 of years he is well aware of the concerns people have with the sound of aircraft overhead.  
 10           He opined that Mr. Quill and staff are being very pro-active in mitigating noise concerns.  
 He wished everyone a very Happy New Year and he is looking forward to a positive year  
 at the Punta Gorda Airport.

15           **Chair Lee** - Thanked everyone for coming. He commented that he wished more people  
 would come to listen to what the Authority does, which is important to Charlotte County  
 and the surrounding area. He commented on participating in the local parades. He  
 wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**16. Adjournment**

20           Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

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Don Lee, Chair

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Kathleen Coppola, Secretary/Treasurer