

**AT A MEETING OF THE HUMMEL FIELD AIRPORT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025, AT THE AIRPORT TERMINAL**

**TOPPING, VIRGINIA**

Present: Don Chapman, At Large  
Maribeth Culbertson, At Large  
Eric Deagle, At Large  
Les Hockman, At Large  
Janice Moore At Large  
Chris Moffatt, At Large  
Jamie Barnhardt, At Large

Richard Lewis, Airport Manager

Britney Thomas, Airport Secretary- Zoom

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Thomas took the following roll call: Mr. Chapman– Present; Mrs. Culbertson– Present; Mr. Deagle– Present; Mr. Hockman– Present; Ms. Moore– Present; Mr. Moffatt– Present; Chairman Barnhardt– Present. There was a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2025, MINUTES**

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2025, which was seconded by Mr. Chapman. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Barnhardt opened public comments at 6:02 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Barnhardt closed public comments at 6:02 p.m.

## **REPORT OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

A special committee was formed to research the established date of Hummel Field. Ms. Moore informed the Committee that she is conducting research to determine whether it is, in fact, the airfield's 100th anniversary. As part of her efforts, she reached out to Columbia University to request access to an archived interview featuring Fred Hummel. She later discovered that the copyright for the interview was not transferred to the university and is still held by the Hummel family.

There was a discussion about whether copyright permissions would be necessary to access or use the material. The primary goal of the research is to confirm the official establishment date of Hummel Field. Ms. Moore explained that Columbia University processes requests monthly in the order they are received, so there is no specific timeline for when the materials might become available.

Part of the confusion stems from a 1925 article referencing Hummel Field, while Middlesex property records indicate that Mr. Hummel did not own property in the county until 1940. The Committee hopes that the interview and related materials will help clarify the timeline.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Airport Manager Report – Mr. Richard Lewis**

#### **A. Terminal Maintenance:**

Mr. Lewis informed the Committee that several maintenance tasks have been performed at the terminal.

#### **B. Hangar F Limit Switches:**

He reported ongoing issues with the limit switches on Hangar F and stated that, due to liability concerns, he does not feel comfortable renting the hangar until the switches are repaired. Maintenance is currently working with electricians to determine the proper wiring of the switches.

#### **C. Security Plan Update:**

Mr. Lewis contacted Parish & Partners to update the airport's security plan in preparation for the new terminal and additional hangars. He noted that the state will reimburse the County 100% for the cost of these plans.

#### **D. Terminal Building and Tie-Down Grant Funding:**

He reported that the grant funding requests for the new terminal building and tie-down space have been submitted, and all required timelines have been met so far. One final deadline remains in mid-April, which they are currently working to meet. Mr. Lewis stated this is expected to be the last deadline before the May meeting; Mark Flynn had also mentioned at the last Board meeting that the state will commit to 90% funding.

**E. Reimbursement Request:**

Mr. Lewis has submitted a funding request to the state for reimbursements totaling \$83,074.84.

**F. Courtesy Car Update:**

He provided an update on the courtesy car, noting that the Board of Supervisors has approved the policy included in the airport's Rules and Regulations. He and Chairman Barnhardt recently reviewed four surplus sheriff's vehicles and ranked them in order of preference. However, the County administration recommended waiting a few more months for a surplus Ford Explorer in better condition to become available. The vehicle is expected to be ready by summertime.

**Terminal Building Timeline – Update from Mr. Oscar Barber**

Chairman Barnhardt invited Mr. Oscar Barber to provide an update on the new terminal building timeline. Mr. Barber shared that his submittal to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was processed within four days. However, the state has indicated that it will not fund construction down to the first taxiway and will not cover an additional portion of the project, which will require further discussion.

Additionally, the state has advised that one of the planned hangars be relocated 50 feet. In response, Mr. Barber stated he plans to complete a property line adjustment and donate 32 feet to the County. He hopes to begin construction within the next two months. The terminal building itself is currently on backorder, and they are awaiting further updates on its delivery.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Deagle informed the Committee that he has obtained logos for the airport attendants' new uniforms, which are being funded by the fuel provider, Titans. He noted that the logo concepts were developed collaboratively by himself, volunteers, and local high school students.

After much discussion of potential logos, Ms. Moore made a motion to select the logo featuring "Whiskey 75 Gateway to the Bay," which was seconded by Mr. Moffatt. The motion was carried by the following roll call: Mr. Chapman– Aye; Mrs. Culbertson– Aye; Mr. Deagle– Aye; Mr. Hockman – Aye; Ms. Moore – Aye; Mr. Moffatt – Aye; Chairman Barnhardt – Aye.

Ms. Culbertson asked why it was called "Whiskey 75." Chairman Barnhardt explained that "Whiskey 75" refers to the airport's worldwide designator for Hummel Field, with "Whiskey" being part of the International Civil Aviation Organization's phonetic alphabet.

Mr. Lewis added that he would reach out to County Administrator Matt Walker for final approval of the selected logo.

Chairman Barnhardt then asked the Committee if they would like to reschedule the next meeting to May 19th, as the originally scheduled date, May 26th, falls on Memorial Day.

Mr. Deagle made the motion to change the Airport Committee meeting from May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup>, which was seconded by Ms. Moore. The motion was carried by the following roll call: Mr. Chapman– Aye; Mrs. Culbertson– Aye; Mr. Deagle– Aye; Mr. Hockman – Aye; Ms. Moore – Aye; Mr. Moffatt – Aye; Chairman Barnhardt – Aye.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Barnhardt opened public comments at 6:49 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Chairman Barnhardt closed public comments at 6:49 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Moore made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Deagle. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Next regular Meeting May 19th, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Barnhardt

Airport Committee Chairman