

**AT A MEETING OF THE HUMMEL FIELD AIRPORT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025, AT THE AIRPORT TERMINAL**

**TOPPING, VIRGINIA**

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

Absent:

Eric Deagle, At Large

Richard Lewis, Airport Manager

Britney Thomas, Airport Secretary

Reginald Williams, Board of Supervisors Member

**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– Absent; Mr. Hockman– Present; Ms. Moore– Present; Mr. Moffatt– Present; Chairman Barnhardt– Present. There was a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2025, MINUTES**

Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes from March 24, 2025, which was seconded by Mr. Moffatt. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Barnhardt opened public comments at 6:01 p.m.

There were no public comments.

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

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

### **Status Report of Hummel Field's Anniversary:**

Ms. Moore reported that Columbia University provided her with the full text of an archived interview with Fred Hummel. However, because the university does not hold the copyright to the interview, she was not granted permission to share the contents with the Committee. The interview focused primarily on Fred Hummel's personal life story and did not include any information about Hummel Field.

She also shared that research conducted by the Middlesex County Clerk's Office confirmed that Fred Hummel did not own land in Middlesex County until approximately 1940. Further investigation revealed that aerial photographs of the area from the 1930s did not show any evidence of an airport or airfield. Additionally, an article from the Southside Sentinel dated July 1941 reported that Middlesex County officially approved the airport on July 22, 1941. Based on this information, Ms. Moore stated that the special committee recommends that the Airport Committee advise the Board of Supervisors to adopt July 22, 1941, as the official founding date of Hummel Field. This would mark next year as the 85th anniversary.

Ms. Moore made a motion to advise the Board of Supervisors and seek approval to adopt that Hummel Field was established on July 22, 1941, which was seconded by Mr. Moffatt. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

During the discussion, Mr. Hockman noted that although aerial photos from 1937 do not show an airstrip, that does not necessarily mean planes were not using the land at the time. He suggested it was still possible that aircraft were taking off and landing in the area during that period, but could not be proven.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

#### **A. Courtesy Car Status:**

Mr. Lewis stated that they are still waiting for one of the Sheriff's vehicles to be declared surplus, as it is in better condition than the others previously considered. He noted that the only information he has at this time is that the vehicle is expected to become available sometime during the summer. Once available, it will still require approval from the Board of Supervisors.

#### **B. Wings, Wheels, and Keels Budget:**

Mr. Lewis stated that the County has budgeted \$10,000 for the Wings, Wheels, and Keels event.

Mr. Reginald Williams inquired whether the County receives any money back from the event and asked about the total cost. Mr. Gill responded that last year's event cost approximately \$18,500. Mr. Lewis explained that the County matches the \$10,000 State grant, and all event-related costs are submitted to both the County and the State for reimbursement.

**C. Repairs:**

The pathway lights are ready for repair, as all necessary parts have arrived. They are currently awaiting Austin Electrical's on-site arrival to complete the repairs and replace the surge protector on the AWOS (Automated Weather Observing System).

Mr. Lewis noted that the AWOS modem board is currently not functioning, meaning that the weather report is unavailable when calling the dedicated phone line. However, the report is still accessible via radio and the internet, which he emphasized are the most critical sources. Austin Electrical plans to complete the repair during their next regularly scheduled inspection.

**Review of Replacement Terminal Building Status– Update from Mr. Oscar Barber**

Mr. Oscar Barber was not present at the meeting; however, Chairman Barnhardt provided a brief update on his behalf. He explained that Mr. Barber has placed the order for the terminal building but has not yet authorized production. As a result, work on the building has not begun. Chairman Barnhardt noted that this decision is understandable, as any unexpected delays could lead to the materials sitting unused and potentially rusting.

**Update on Wings, Wheels, and Keels– From Mr. Rusty Gill**

Mr. Gill announced that the Wings, Wheels, and Keels event is scheduled for September 27, 2025. He stated that he has made arrangements to exclude any property that may be under construction at that time. As a result, the traditional kids' carnival will not be included this year. In its place, he has planned an alternative children's activity featuring Power Wheels on a 60-foot drag strip, with helmets provided for safety.

**Update on VA Dept of Transportation Marketing Grant for Hummel Field**

Chairman Barnhardt provided an update on the marketing film funded by the \$10,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation, which Whitney Law previously presented at the last meeting. He stated that the video has not yet been filmed but is expected to be completed this weekend. He reminded the Committee that the video is primarily targeted toward audiences in Maryland to encourage tourism to Middlesex County.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Barnhardt opened public comments at 6:43 p.m.

Russ Perkinson, a resident of Topping, recommended that the Committee consider approaching the Board of Supervisors to request that VDOT implement a 45 mph speed limit on Grey's Point Road. His recommendation was based on concerns about accidents and speeding along that stretch of road.

Chairman Barnhardt closed public comments at 6:46 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hockman made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Chapman. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Next regular Meeting July 28th, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Barnhardt

Airport Committee Chairman