

**Hummel Field, Terminal Building, Topping, VA**  
**Airport Committee Meeting**  
**September 22, 2025**

**Present:** Maribeth Culbertson, At Large  
Janice Moore, At Large  
Jamie Barnhardt, At Large  
Jay Rovniak, At Large

**Absent:** Don Chapman, At Large  
Chris Moffatt, At Large  
Eric Deagle, At Large

**Call to order/Roll Call**

Chairman Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:01pm and took the following roll call: Mr. Chapman– Absent; Mrs. Culbertson–Present; Ms. Moore– Present; Mr. Moffatt– Absent; Mr. Rovniak– Present; Chairman Barnhardt–Present; Mr. Deagle– Absent. There was a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Ed Sumrell, Whiskey75 Services, Bumpass, VA, spoke on his concerns with new terminal building and lack of public access after business hours.

Chairman Barnhardt closed public comments at 6:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from July 28, 2025 meeting:**

- **July 28, 2025 minutes approved:** Ms. Moore made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Culbertson, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**Report of Standing committees:** There were none at this time.

**Report of Special Committees:**

- **\$47,000 furniture proposal successfully submitted** for new terminal building with November Virginia Aviation Board approval timeline, so that 90% funding would be possible.
- Wait for November Aviation Board meeting outcome and completion of new terminal building before ordering furniture

**Unfinished Business**

**Updates from Oscar Barber about the new terminal building construction:**

- **Six-week delivery timeline** confirmed once funding approved.
- **Building occupancy permit timeline** projected at six months from October 24th building delivery date
- **Kitchen installation upgrade** added to original plans
- **Parking lot construction** requiring removal of approximately **300 truckloads** of existing berms to create level access and eliminate drainage-related dirt mounds

**Updates from Richard Lewis, Airport Manager:**

- **Runway lighting system setting** providing low/medium/high settings

- Ms. Moore made a motion to approve dusk-to-dawn operation with pilot control override, enhancing safety and airport visibility for aviation community. Mr. Rovniak seconded and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.
- Discussion of Wings Wheels and Keels 2025

### New Business

#### **Report from Airport Manager Richard Lewis:**

- **Discussion of current aircraft personal property tax in Middlesex County:** The Committee felt there is lost revenue from area pilots who do not house their airplanes at Hummel due to the county's high tax rate. Discussion to suggest county re-evaluate aircraft personal property tax rates and consider a reduction. Mrs. Culbertson made a motion to request that the county look at reducing the aircraft personal property tax to aid in the economic growth and development needed in Middlesex County. Ms. Moore seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
- **Aircraft parking capacity management** during construction of the terminal building and new runway ramps was discussed, and Chairman Barnhardt excused himself from the meeting for these discussions. The Committee agreed that creative solutions are required to maintain current service levels at the airport. Richard Lewis will lead efforts to engage neighboring property owners for temporary tie-down and parking spaces.
- **Fuel discount program approval:**After discussion, Mr. Rovniak made a motion to allow a 15% fuel discount for those aircraft tenants that are paying Middlesex County personal property taxes on their planes. Ms. Culbertson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved..
- **Richard Lewis will:**
  - Contact Matt Walker to confirm Committee's runway lighting recommendation
  - Submit 15% fuel discount policy to Board of Supervisors for formal approval
  - Coordinate with adjacent property owners for temporary tie-down and parking spaces during construction

#### **Report from Janice Moore regarding Virginia Aviation Conference attendance**

- **Regulatory education**
- **Best practices sharing** with similar-sized airports regarding wildlife management, operations procedures, and facility development strategies
- **State official relationships**
- **Norfolk Airport shared insights** regarding successful modernization approaches potentially applicable to Middlesex facilities development

**Election of Airport Committee Secretary:** Ms. Moore made a motion to elect Maribeth Culbertson as new Committee secretary. Mr. Rovniak seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Les Hockman recognition ceremony** scheduled for October 7th at 3:00 PM at Saluda's Historic Courthouse to honor him for two decades of dedicated Airport Committee service

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Barnhardt opened public comments at 7:51 p.m. Chairman Barnhardt closed public comments at 7:52 p.m.

### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moore made the motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Mr. Rovniak. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Next regular Meeting November 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM

(Meeting rescheduled from November 24th to November 17th to avoid Thanksgiving week conflicts)

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Barnhardt  
Airport Committee Chairman