

**AIRPORT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 9th, 2017
4:00 P.M.**

Present: Stan Smith, Lanny Parker, Jerry Taylor and Mike Jones. Absent: None. Also, present Charles Sawyer, Derek Kennedy, Glenn Hutto, Wayne Petrus, Robert Simpson, Jackie Gilbert, Glenn Barron, Jimmy Blake, Gregg Kirk, Bradley Jones and Jonathan Farmer via teleconference.

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order. Mr. Sawyer led the group in prayer.

Motion Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Parker and declared adopted by unanimous roll call vote of the Committee to approve the agenda with one addition:

- #5 Discuss and make recommendations, if necessary, regarding Robert Earle's hangar lease.**

Motion Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the minutes of the October 3rd, 2017 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held between the Airport Committee and lease holders from the Union Parish Airport. Mr. Taylor addressed the group and said he would like to see the airport grow and reach its full potential. There are several items that need or require attention. There is a septic pond on the South end that needs to be moved. The runway needs to be lengthened so that we can handle larger planes. The airport is not self-sufficient. It costs the people of Union Parish about \$17,000 a year to operate. General Liability Insurance costs \$4400 a year and utilities cost about \$4500. The state reimburses half of what it costs to bush hog. We are trying to look at opportunities so that the airport can at least break even so that it is not a burden on the people of Union Parish. Union Parish is one of the poorest parishes financially. The tax payers of Union Parish should not be subsidizing the airport.

We have checked out similar airports in our area. The City of Bastrop charges \$100 to \$125 a month just to park in a hangar, but the city owns them. Each one at the meeting today are getting your own personal hangars, parking as many planes as you want and can come and go as you please. Currently the leases are \$100 a year and the police jury would like to see this increased to \$100 a month. This will not affect existing leases, but at some point, changes need to be made.

Wayne Petrus comments that the Union Parish airport has huge possibilities because of Lake D'Arbonne. The key to maintaining the airport is to make it friendly enough and cost effective.

Jonathan Farmer, Engineer with KSA, said that we need to get a runway extension justification study. The FAA wants to see what we are doing about obstructions such as the oxidation pond and the gun club area. Mr. Farmer said the airport receives \$150,000 in federal funding a year. These funds can be held for up to three years and on the fourth year you must use it. Jackie Gilbert, Airport Manager, would like to use these funds to build tee hangars. He also would like to prevent people from building hangars that block the land behind them. He would like to see the airport grow and become prosperous.

Motion Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Taylor to recommend to the jury to charge a minimum of \$200 per year (up to a 50 x 50) for a hangar lease; anything over a 50 x 50 area will be charged an additional .10 a square foot; leases will be a fifteen-year lease with a ten-year renewal and a 5% increase on the renewal. This will affect new leases beginning January 1, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on Robert Earle's lease. **No action taken.**

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Smith declared the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Taylor and duly seconded by Mr. Jones on this the 9th day of October, 2017.

**Stan Smith, Chairman
Paula Strickland, Secretary-Treasurer**