

**VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS AIRPORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING**

Members Present: Daniel Ruble
Jeffery Johnson
Frank Sims
John White
Kent Hutton
Ben Jenkins
Dr. James Baker

Guest Present: See Attachment

The Virginia Highlands Airport Authority Board of Directors held its meeting on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:30 P.M. in the “Dr. F. Ellison Conrad” Conference Room of the Terminal Building. Mr. Ruble, Chairman, determined that a quorum of the Board was present and called the meeting to order. Also, present were Mickey Hines, Airport Manager, Steve Minor, Airport Attorney, Kristy Miller, Executive Assistant, and April Conner, Administrative Assistant.

Mr. Ruble welcomed Mr. Hutton to the Board.

Mr. Ruble called for approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting June 12, 2023.

Dr. Baker moved to approve the minutes of June 12, 2023. Mr. Sims seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruble called for the Financial Report.

Mr. Johnson gave the Financial Report.

Mr. Ruble stated that if the Board agreed, the Election of Officers would be held next. The Board was in agreement.

Mr. Ruble called for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Sims nominated Dr. Baker for Chairman.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Ruble closed the nominations.

Dr. Baker was appointed as Chairman by a vote of 6-0-1. Dr. Baker abstaining.

Mr. Ruble called for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mr. Ruble nominated Mr. Jenkins for Vice Chairman.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Ruble closed the nominations.

Mr. Jenkins was appointed as Vice Chairman by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Jenkins abstaining.

Mr. Ruble called for nominations for Treasurer.

Mr. Sims nominated Mr. Johnson for Treasurer.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Ruble closed the nominations.

Mr. Johnson was appointed as Treasurer by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Johnson abstaining.

Mr. Ruble called for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. White nominated Mr. Sims for Secretary.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Ruble closed the nominations.

Mr. Sims was appointed as Secretary by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Sims abstaining.

Mr. Ruble called for nominations for Assistant Treasurer.

Mr. Johnson nominated Mr. Ruble for Assistant Treasurer.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Ruble closed the nominations.

Mr. Ruble was appointed as Assistant Treasurer by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Ruble abstaining.

Mr. Ruble called for nominations for Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Ruble nominated Mr. White for Assistant Secretary.

Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Ruble closed the nominations.

Mr. White was appointed as Assistant Secretary by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. White abstaining.

Mr. Ruble stated that appointments to the Committees needed to be made.

Dr. Baker requested that the appointments to the Committees be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Ruble stated that the appointments to the Committees would be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Ruble called for the Manager's Report.

Mr. Hines gave the Manager's Report.

Mr. Hines stated that a request was received from a local business who is interested in purchasing airport land that was acquired for the road relocation and runway extension.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Baker made the motion that the Board not pursue the request. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hines stated that talks with Food City regarding construction of a large hangar on the west side of the Airport are still ongoing.

Mr. Johnson stated that funding could be requested through the Tobacco Commission for site prep and running water and gas lines for the west side of the Airport.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Baker moved to allow the Airport Manager to apply for a Tobacco Commission grant. Mr. White seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Johnson abstaining.

Mr. Johnson excused himself from the meeting at 6:37 PM.

Mr. Ruble called for the Operations Committee Report.

Mr. Sims stated that the Operations Committee had not met.

Mr. Ruble called for the Development Committee Report.

Dr. Baker stated that the Development Committee had not met.

Mr. Ruble called for Unfinished Business.

None.

Mr. Ruble called for New Business.

Mr. Hines stated that the Pharoahs Car Club of Southwest Virginia has requested permission to sponsor an air show/car show, Wings and Wheels, event for a date to be determined sometime in 2024. The month of October 2024 is likely to be the best time. They are requesting preliminary approval from VHAA.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Baker moved to pursue looking into this request and the possibilities of having an Airshow. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**Mr. Ruble called for Public Comments.
None.**

Mr. Ruble made the motion for Virginia Highlands Airport Authority to conduct a Closed Session pursuant to Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711. A.7., for the purpose of Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. Dr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ruble stated that Closed Session would consist of Board Members, Airport Manager, Airport Attorney, Executive Assistant, and Administrative Assistant.

Following the Closed Session, the Board immediately reconvened its Open Session. Having reconvened, members of the Board were advised that if any one of them believes there was a departure from the purposes stated in the motion to go into Closed Session, they now should so state. Mr. Ruble asked if anyone believed there was a departure in the Closed Session from the purposes announced for having a Closed Session. FOIA requires you to speak up now.

No one having identified any departures from the purpose for the closed session, a roll call vote was taken certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting.

**Danny Ruble – I so certify.
Frank Sims – I so certify.
John White - I so certify.
Kent Hutton - I so certify.
Ben Jenkins - I so certify.
Dr. James Baker – I so certify.**

Mr. Ruble called for Board Members comments.

Mr. Ruble thanked the Board for allowing him to serve as chairman for the last two (2) years.

Mr. white moved to adjourn. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.



Dr. James Baker, Secretary



Daniel Ruble, Chairman