

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING HELD ON MAY 16, 2016**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Crisp County Government Center, Room 305. Commissioners present were A. James Nance, Wallace Mathis, Sam Farrow, and Larry Felton. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and Clerk Linda Finch. Rev. Damon Fountain gave the invocation, and Administrator Patton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Henderson welcomed all in attendance.

STATEMENT FROM AIRPORT BOARD

Carden Summers, on behalf of the Airport Board, stated that the Airport Board was appointed by the County Commissioners, they serve at your discretion and they have basically zero authority except to make recommendations to the commissioners. We came to the board several years ago when this same subject come up about the airport and Mr. Cooper being the Fixed Base Operator; we made recommendations to the board at that time that if you wanted to have control over the airport then you pay Mr. Cooper a salary, give him a budget like you do other department heads, and they also gave you a choice of creating an Airport Authority and let the Airport Authority run the airport. He doesn't think anything has been done at this point in time, and they as an airport board could not move forward to do anything else, but they can issue this statement to the county commissioners and let you know that Mr. Cooper has done an excellent job at the airport, he lives on the airport, he provides security, and things that he has done at the airport do merit some great thought and merit you all giving the benefit of doubt both ways. Mr. Summers stated that he doesn't know what the meeting is about regarding the airport because as your airport board none of us has been informed of anything whatsoever or that you are disgruntled or want changes made. In regards to that, we want you to know that the airport board serves at your pleasure, we can't tell Mr. Cooper what or what not to do and can't do anything without backing from the commissioners. Right now the airport is running smoothly, the grass is cut, it looks good, clean and nice, and we are proud of our airport and it is an asset in Crisp County that is one of the most hidden jewels in the county. He stated that the airport board would like to be part of the decision making or why do you need them.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and existing contracts, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

DISCUSS AIRPORT CONTRACT

Greg Dampier, Program Director for AirEvac Lifeteam, advised that they wanted to speak on the hospitality at the airport. The Affordable Care Act and other health care has affected them like it has the hospital and ambulance service, there are times when they have non-revenue generated flights, about 55-60% of the time, and with the hangar rent and fuel that helps offset and keep them at this airport. It is not just their helicopter that comes into the airport, they have nine other bases in Georgia and if one of them is going north they stop at this airport to get refueled. If they have a patient on board, Mr. Cooper and his staff are more than happy to come out so that the helicopter does not have to shut down and waste time. They provide what we call hot refuel while the helicopter is running, the hangar support makes sure that the AirEvac mechanic has everything we need and stops by periodically to make sure that everything is running smooth. He appreciates everything that Mr. Cooper provides them and has helped keep them at your local airport; we are like a business like everyone else and every airport would like to have a flight service at their airport. Commissioner Mathis advised that from the Board of Commissioners we appreciate what you all do as you bring notoriety to the county, positive influence, and the difference you make around here is phenomenal to the county and we appreciate what you all do. Chairman Henderson gave Mr. Cooper a copy of a contract and advised that the purpose of this meeting was so that we could execute a contract with Mr. Cooper as he was told we did not have a contract. He asked that Mr. Cooper review the contract, communicate with Mr. Patton, and if that is agreeable with him, he is sure the board would be willing to execute it at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator