***Work Shop Airport Master Plan***

***Dixie County Courthouse***

***Commission Meeting Room***

***March 21, 2019 – 4:30 PM***

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

W. C. Mills, Chairman

David Osteen, Vice-Chairman

Gene Higginbotham

Mark Hatch

Jamie Storey

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tim Alexander, County Manager

Michael Osteen, County Attorney

Dana D. Johnson, Clerk of Court

Della J. Petty, Deputy Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Board Workshop was called to order at 4:30 PM by Chairman Mills.

**PASSERO ASSOCIATES, LLC:**

Mr. Don Ramdas and Mr. Chris Johnson with Passero Associates, LLC appeared before the Board to go over the Master Plan Update presentation for the Cross City Airport. Mr. Ramdas presented a handout and they discussed the planning process, airport attributes and recent improvements, aviation forecast for the future, suggested improvements and a financial evaluation. Mr. Ramdas expressed his thanks to Manager Tim Alexander, Assistant County Manager Duane Cannon, Commissioner Mark Hatch and others for being involved in the planning committee. He requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Arthur Bellot who had been very involved with the Cross City Airport improvement process over the years.

Mr. Ramdas stated the Cross City Airport was originally a military base in the 1940's and was deeded to the Dixie County and then developed into a general aviation airport with two active runways. He said the property consist of 797 acres of land and makes a $2,798,000.00 economical impact to Dixie County. He discussed the recent improvements to the main Runway 13-31 which lies east to west and consists of new lights on the runway, airfield guidance signs and beacon, electrical vault modifications, generator, construction of hangers, a new weather reporting system and apron rehabilitation. These improvements were funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at a ninety percent level. Mr. Ramdas discussed the Aviation Activity Forecast for the airport consisting of information and data from 2017 and 2018 as well as projection for the years 2022, 2027 and 2037. The information consisted of the types of aircraft that currently use the Cross City Airport and types the airport can accommodate in the future.

Mr. Ramdas discussed suggested improvements to Runway 14-22 which include a 1,000 feet extension and the rehabilitation of taxiways A and B. He suggested adding lights to taxiway B and to rehabilitate taxiway C. He discussed the periodic clearing of runway obstructions, remarking the airfield pavement and the required security fencing and gate monitoring and controls. He also discussed the purchase of a 2,000 gallon fuel truck to use for refueling larger aircraft. He said Passero Associates would like to conduct a Storm Water Drainage Study and a Wildlife Hazard Assessment as well as look into the purchase of additional 160 acre neighboring properties for expansion. Mr. Ramdas discussed the capital improvements for the years 2019 through 2024. He noted each project was itemized and broken down by estimated budget cost and funding provided by the FAA and the FDOT as well as the funding from the County. Mr. Ramdas discussed the financial evaluation and recommendations to the Board regarding hanger developments, land leases, fuel sales, and timber harvest sales.

County Manager Tim Alexander clarified for everyone the non-primary FAA entitlement money is separate from the FDOT and can only be spent on specific items. Mr. Ramdas stated they can defer funding up to three years then they must use the funds or lose the first year of funding. Manager Alexander said that if the project is not in the Master Plan they cannot spend the money. He recommends the money going towards improvements to Runway 13-31 and the work on Runway 14-22 in the future. Manager Alexander also stated all the open hangers were rented during the storm for aircraft protection and storage. He said having the facilities available at that time of need created more revenue for the County. Manager Alexander inquired about the sales revenue from the recent timber harvest and Assistant Manager Cannon replied the County received $41,073.00.

Commissioner Hatch commented on how involved Mr. Arthur Bellot was with the Cross City Airport and how valuable he was to Dixie County. He suggested the Board come up with an idea for recognition of his efforts and deeds. He suggested renaming a portion of the Airport like the hanger complex, taxiway or parking area. Manager Alexander agreed and suggested the large oak tree as a suitable location for something of that nature. Mr. Ramdas stated the federal identification for the airport is Cross City. Manager Alexander thanked Mr. Ramdas and Mr. Johnson for their presentation and help with projects. He also thanked Mr. Richard Owen with the FAA Grant administration. Commissioner Higginbotham inquired about the location of the proposed property extension and Assistant Manager Cannon replied it is near the property that was purchased last year.

**ADJOURN:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Higginbotham and seconded by Commissioner Hatch. The Board approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:07 P.M.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DIXIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Dana D. Johnson, Clerk-Auditor