# CHARLOTTE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

## SEPTEMBER 3, 2015 - 5:01 P.M.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Andrews read the meeting notice into the record.

**2. Invocation**

Commissioner Herston gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Andrews; Commissioners Coppola, Hancik, Herston and Seay; Executive Director Quill; Attorney Garrard; Assistant Executive Director Parish; Mrs. Cauley; Ms. Desguin; Mr. Laroche; Mr. Mallard and Ms. Straw.

**5. Citizen's Input**

**6. FY 2015/2016 Tentative Budget**

Mr. Quill commented that he has shortened his slide presentation and could go through them or just answer questions on the budget. Commissioner Herston commented that he is happy with the budget. Commissioner Hancik commented that he has some questions. Chair Andrews commented that it seems everyone would be fine with just the questions. Commissioner Hancik commented that he had this discussion with Mr. Quill and Mr. Parish and asked to have something placed in the budget. He asked if there was adequate funds for the cost of a search for Mr. Quill's replacement. He commented that there could be an outside search or the Authority could do it themselves. He commented that there will be some expenses associated with it depending on how many candidates they want to interview. He commented that it could include airfare and housing. He commented that Mr. Quill has put in the budget for the transition period. He commented that this could be addressed after the first of the year. Mr. Quill commented that if the Authority is flying them in it is covered in the budget but if hiring a search firm he did not put that in the budget. Mr. Parish commented that legal and professional was increased $45,000 and some of that is for lobbyist fee. Commissioner Herston asked when Mr. Quill is planning on retiring. Mr. Quill said it will be September 30, 2016. Commissioner Coppola asked if it was customary to pay for airfare. Commissioner Seay commented that at the University they will pay the airfare to get here, put them up in a hotel and pay their meals. She commented that it is not just expenses for the candidate but meals for those doing the

interview with them during a meal. She commented that bringing them in on coach may not impress them but bringing them in on Allegiant Air might and there are 28 cities to recruit from. She commented that the Authority already has one great Executive Director and a tremendous Assistant Executive Director who is ready to step into those shoes. She commented the Authority has the obligation to make sure they have the best and why doesn't the Authority interview Mr. Parish. She suggested getting a copy of Mr. Parish's resume and the Board has already seen what he has done and how well he has performed. She suggested after looking at his resume to sit down and interview him as an applicant for the position. She commented the Authority wants to make sure that they have the right person. Commissioner Hancik commented that the University would not hire someone without going out on a national search. Commissioner Seay commented that they do. Commissioner Hancik commented that the problem of having the searched narrowed down to a certain number of candidates and then their names are going to be published. Commissioner Seay commented that it is from the minute they submit their resume it is public. Commissioner Hancik commented that sometimes when the candidate knows that it is out for public exposure they will say they aren't interested in the job because they don't want the present employer to know. He suggested that one board member, a city manager, county administrator or some business leaders do the interview. Commissioner Herston opined that the absolute most qualified guy for the position is Mr. Parish. He commented that if any advertising is done it is for the Assistant Executive Director. He commented that he likes promoting within. He commented on knowing the performance of Mr. Parish. Commissioner Seay suggested making sure there are funds available for the search of an Assistant Executive Director. Commissioner Herston asked Mr. Quill if he has an opinion. Mr. Quill commented that he has a very strong opinion. He commented on what the Authority has done in a very cost effective manner with the original terminal and the expansion. He commented on the terminal costs. He commented that the Authority's consulting engineer brought down the airport assistant director from St. Pete to show him how to build a cost effective terminal. Commissioner Hancik suggested amending the proposed budget to include search funds. Commissioner Seay commented that she understood that the money is available in the budget as it stands. Mr. Parish commented that there is an increase in the legal and professional line item. Commissioner Seay commented that there is funding for a national search whether it is for an executive or assistant. Commissioner Hancik commented that record reflects that there is adequate dollars in the budget. Commissioner Herston commented that is looks like the budget was increased. Commissioner Coppola asked if the director usually picks the assistant. Mr. Quill commented that traditionally the director picks the assistant. Commissioner Coppola asked if anyone has asked Mr. Parish if he is interested. Mr. Parish commented that he came here for a two year stint ten years ago. He commented that he stayed because he saw a lot of potential in the airport. He commented that the things that have been done are amazing. He commented on working for Mr. Quill and that he loves it here. He commented that he has had other opportunities over the past three to five years and have turned them down because he really wants to stay here. Commissioner Hancik commented that what he is hearing there are already three people who are ready to hire Mr. Parish. He commented then why go through the exercise. Commissioner Hancik asked Mr. Parish if he lives in Charlotte County. Mr. Parish commented he did not. Commissioner Herston asked Mr. Quill if he lived in Charlotte County. Me Quill commented he did not. Commissioner

Hancik commented that there is not a law that says you have to live in Charlotte County. Commissioner Herston commented that it looks like there is adequate funds if it should become an issue. Chair Andrews asked Commissioner Hancik what is the importance of Charlotte County to him. Commissioner Hancik commented that when you are in the top management of a political subdivision and should there be an issue that would require a vote of the people i.e. bond issue, change in statute he thinks it would be very difficult for a non-resident to sell it. He commented that there is no vested interest in the county. Mr. Quill asked Mr. Garrard if in the changes to the Authority's Enabling Legislation, is there no access to property taxes to back a bond issue. Attorney Garrard commented that is right. Commissioner Hancik commented that there could be other issues like changes to the Enabling Airport Authority Act. Commissioner Seay commented that is done by the Legislature and not done at the local level. Commissioner Hancik commented that he feels that the Authority needs to go out for a national search whether it is for a director or an assistant director. He opined that the Authority is open to criticism by the public by not doing a national search. He commented that this is not the good old boys club. Commissioner Seay commented that she has a lot of respect for that opinion. She commented that ten years ago when the Authority brought Mr. Parish here it was an incredible opportunity for the Authority to have an engineer on staff with the extensive experience he had. She commented that the Authority has someone with ten years' experience and knowing people in government and all the representatives the Authority has to deal with directly for issues of the airport, like the FAA and traveling to Washington, DC on the Authority's behalf. She commented that people know him and he has their respect. She commented that she feels the Authority is very fortunate to be in a position where the Authority has someone the Authority can rely on who has proven himself. She commented that Mr. Parish has expressed his own personal dedication to the success of the airport. She opined that the Authority has done their homework. She commented that the Authority needs to acknowledge the impact that Mr. Parish has had in the success of the airport. Commissioner Hancik commented that he is not questioning Mr. Parish's credentials. He opined that the Authority will be criticized if they don't do a national search. He commented that if the Authority wants to take that criticism that is fine. Chair Andrews commented that there would be continuity. Commissioner Herston commented that the Authority started training an executive director a few years ago. He commented that Mr. Parish gives a report every month and knows every nook and cranny of the airport. Commissioner Coppola commented that it seems like a great team. She commented that Mr. Parish has the engineering part. Commissioner Seay suggested finding someone who will compliment Mr. Parish for the future of the airport. Chair Andrews commented that the Board is not deciding on this today. Commissioner Seay suggested that Commissioner Coppola, who is in charge of personnel, get with Mr. Quill and start making a plan. Commissioner Herston asked if the CPA's have input on the Budget. Mr. Quill said not on the budget but they review everything and will be here the first week of December. Commissioner Hancik asked how much cash the Authority has in the bank. Mr. Quill commented that at each meeting staff passes out the income statement, accounts receivable and balance sheet. He commented that on the balance sheet it shows what the Authority has in cash. He commented that there is approximately $3 million. Mrs. Cauley explained where the cash is shown on the balance sheet. **Commissioner Hancik made motion move**

**ahead with the tentative budget 2015/2016. Commissioner Herston seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Citizen's Input**

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

_____
Paul Andrews, Chair

_____
Kathleen Coppola, Secretary/Treasurer