

**Airport Commission Meeting
Minutes
January 27, 2026**

Present: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Bickley, Mr. Amick, Ms. West, Mr. A Wilson

Absent: Mr. Hill, Ms. Fulmer

Others in Attendance: Mr. Rowe, Mr. Marcy, Mr. Funderburk, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Barkevich, Mr. Partridge, and Ms. Ball

Call to Order-Invocation

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order, and Mr. Rowe led the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

- 1. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting**

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 2, 2025. Motion seconded and all approved.

3. Chairman Comments (Milledge Wilson)

Mr. Wilson said that he has had, over the years, several complaints, and concerns about the airport from pilots and members. I am going to talk about these at this point in the meeting.

- 1. Security cameras.** We talked about security cameras previously. A while back some kids ran across some lights.

Mr. Rowe said that they had some discussion about trying to figure something out. We had the sheriff's office come out and install a temporary camera just to see if we could get any kind of evidence. From that point till now there hasn't been any traction on that at all. We have every intention of getting security camera at the airport. I would like to put them where we will get a good bit of coverage. I know some primary areas would be essential, but I don't see a reason for stopping there. think we can get some coverage at the hangers, main entrance, and the back side of the terminal. We are still trying to get into that process. The county is putting security

cameras at several other locations. We are at a point where we may be able to get something done.

2. **Young Eagles Program.** I don't know all of the details, but the county could get a committee together to promote the program. It's a major source to advocate for.

Mr. Cooper said he believes that it is sponsored through the EAA. Quite a few airports have something like that. It is a good thing if you can get it going. You need to get the pilots involved.

3. **Water Fountain.** Mr. Rowe said he received the email that was sent out. Some airports have water coolers as opposed to a water fountain. Is that something that would be sufficient for what you are talking about?

Mr. Wilson said he thinks they need a water fountain.

Mr. Cooper said some have bottles and some have fountains. There are pros and cons to both. The one thing with the bottles, someone has to be responsible to change the bottle. You have a beautiful new building to put it in without making a mess. The bottled water you have trash with the cups so that is a drawback. A good cold-water fountain is better.

Mr. Amick asked if there was any reason as to why we don't look into some vending machines.

The question was asked about what the water source is. Is it a well?

Mr. Rowe said he wasn't sure he would find out.

Mr. Wilson said he recommended that the county looks into putting in a water fountain.

Mr. Rowe said he would definitely look into figuring out some of the planning to see what would be involved in getting a water fountain.

Mr. Wilson said the when the pilots come in, they are going to want some water. We have no resource for water and that's embarrassing for the county.

4. **Telephone.** There is a telephone near the bathroom. That is not a suitable location to have the telephone. I don't think it is working. We need to look at having one in the pilot's lounge.

Mr. Rowe said he would look into that.

5. **Women's bathroom.** Mr. Rowe said that the bathroom is considered unisex. It would be a matter of trying to find where it would be installed.

Mr. Wilson said it was suggested in the closet area.

Mr. Rowe said he and some other people would have to look to see what options we have.

Mr. Wilson asked when you design something, what are you doing about a bathroom.

Mr. Funderburk said it depends on the size of the facility as far as what you are capable of doing in that space.

Mr. Wilson asked if there were any state or federal regulations.

Mr. Cooper said that any facility like that has to be handicapped accessible.

Mr. Wilson asked if they design terminals with just one bathroom.

Mr. Funderburk said they bring in an architect to do space planning first. Based on the size of your building they determined that yours would have a unisex bathroom that meets codes.

6. **FOD Duster.** I received some information from Mr. Gant on this device. If the county can look into this. This will help clean up debris that can destroy aircraft. It's not extremely expensive, you can drag it behind a truck. The aeronautics commission has one, and they might rent or lease it.

Mr. Cooper said they would give them one. We will discuss it later in the meeting.

7. **Cleaning grass clumps off taxiways and around the hangers.** I have gotten several complaints about this over the years. Mr. Gant can meet you out there to show you what he is talking about.

8. **Gravel in the potholes.** The potholes have been out there for a while. I know we are planning to repave the driveway, but the consensus that I am getting is that we don't know when it will get done. If there is any way the county can just fill the potholes,

this doesn't look good when the guests and visitors come to the airport. We need to show more courtesy.

9. **Additional Hangers.** We have talked about additional hangers for years and years at every meeting.

There is a lengthy list for hanger space. This needs to be brought up before the county council. My understanding is that there have been people who said they would build the hangers with their own money and lease the land to the county. After so many years it would divert back to the county. That way the county would get revenue from rent and gas sales. I don't see where it is so important.

Mr. Rowe said he doesn't want to speak on behalf of the council, but I agree. I can talk to the administration to see if we can get a conversation going with council.

Mr. Barkevich said they have completed the master plan for the airport. We talked about how that would look, give you some perimeters and there is flexibility. There are some places where you can place hangers and how it would look. You can do a land revert lease, where you develop the area, this is the type of hanger you can build here, work out a contract with a private developer that builds it, then it divers back to you after 25 years. They pay the market rate for that land lease to be on your airport campus because it is a public access facility. Depending on where you put it, you will have to build the infrastructure to get to it because typically they're only going to build a little apron right in front of the building. You have to be able to add on to what you have or build a taxi lane to it. It will have to meet the standard, that's where you have to try to get FAA money to do as much as you can. The state aeronautics commission come in with funding. They are looking at economic development. There are rules and regulations on how close they can get to the hangers. The funding is 60/40. If you can't get enough state funding, you can build them yourself.

10. **Beautification.** When you go down the interstate, you can go to an exit ramp, you see a lot of beautifications, including this county. That is the welcome mat for transit. You don't get an interstate exit when you land at the airport. If you look at what the welcome mat is when you come to Newberry, it makes you wonder if they invest in their community. Do they support infrastructure? Why would I locate a business here? What do they have to offer? It is a missed opportunity, but it's absolutely neglectful. That is the only advertisement you have for a lot of people with resources and capabilities to want to come to our community. This is not a publicly funded private boys club. There is a misconception in public and a scare by council that there is some type of attitude. We moved to an advisory board because they didn't like us spending money. They don't want the county to be bound by it. There has been a lot of non-

action, but we have gotten some movement on some issues. It tells me that there is an awareness of this. What really needs to be is some motivation.

Mr. Rowe said he agrees with that. What I can tell you is that anything I get involved in I will do my best to learn it. I don't have a problem with bringing anything to the council's attention. Getting this commission back up and running and having regular meetings to get ideas that you have. I would like to see the airport grow.

4. Mr. Josh Rowe – Discussion of Airport Activities

The Papi lights at the Shakespeare end of the airport are not currently working. We have changed the fuse, but that didn't fix the problem. Walker and Whitesides are supposed to come tomorrow and diagnose the problem.

The pothole issue will be taken care of.

The courtesy car is something that has been talked about. I have a few vehicles in the public works fleet currently. It's contingent on whether or not council approves this in the budget. I am going to be asking for a few new vehicles for some of my guys. There are vehicles that are still running, they are just outdated and used.

It won't be long before we get our contractors started back doing some odds and end things, spraying, taking care of the retention ponds, etc.

5. Motion for Adopt 2026 meeting schedule.

Mr. Wilson asked for a motion to adopt the 2026 meeting schedule. The dates are April 14, July 14, and October 13. Motion was made, seconded and all approved.

6. Mr. Skeets Cooper District 3 Commissioner

I have managed airports for 11 years and have been on the commission for 9 years.

Security cameras – Make sure you have a fence all around the airport, that it is the proper height. We can help you with that. We will give you 60% and you take care of 40%. You need to get a quote on a security system that can be tied to the internet. Some airports will put a monitor at their EMS station where it can be monitored.

Young Eagles – I recommend that you get in touch with some of your pilots, join the EAA chapter and they will help you set up something.

Vending machines – Check with a local company to see if they will install one. If you put one in you will have to provide drinks, snacks, etc.

Telephone – I highly recommend you put a phone in your pilots' area.

Ladies' bathroom – If you want to redo the bathroom you might could incorporate that with the water fountain.

FOD Duster – We give them to the airports to use; all we ask is that you fill out a paper promising it will be used. I will call to see if one is available.

Courtesy Car – A lot of airports have one. You write the tail number down, get a photocopy of driver's license and keep it on file. Put a sticker on the vehicle stating please replenish the fuel that you use. Most airports limit it within the county or within a distance of up to 2 hours. I will be glad to help you do some research on this. You will have to change your insurance just slightly.

Spraying weeds – We have some great companies that come and spray weeds. We offer 75%/25%. I will tell you how to save 25%. If you will get someone to go to Columbia and get certified to spray the chemicals, then we will furnish the chemical and you put it out.

Lights at the airport – Get someone to go check the lights one a week at the airport.

Hangers – Every airport in the state needs more hangers. I have been fighting to get hangers for years. If the grants are worded properly, we can do everything to put hangers there except for the vertical. The state will not help you with that.

In closing, I noticed two key issues. Your county council is no different than any other. I am willing to come down at anytime and make a presentation and talk to the county council about the airport. When you are ready to do things, there are numerous ways to get money from the state. If we get the money, you have to be ready right then.

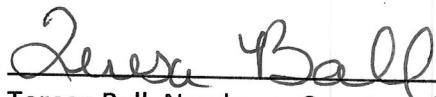
7. Representatives of Ardurra

Mr. Funderburk said that one of the designs we talked about is the taxi way. The FAA has deemed that your pavement needs to be rehabilitated. That is the design we are wrapping up. We received an email today asking if the numbers we previously had are acceptable to them. If the numbers are good and can use for planning purposes, that is potentially something in the spring that will happen. The other project is the parking lot. We are going to get that fixed.

Mr. Wilson asked about the timetable for this.

Mr. Funderburk said that they are anticipating having it ready to bid this spring.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Motion second and all were in favor.



Minutes Prepared By:

Teresa Ball, Newberry County Public Works Approved