

AIRPORT COMMISSION MINUTES

January 13, 2026,

3:00 P.M.

Danville Regional Airport – Eastern Conference Room

The following were present for the Danville Regional Airport Commission meeting held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Attendees:

Sid Allgood, Chairman	Travis Williams, Averett University	Marc Adelman, Director
Doug Appleton, Vice-Chairman	Earl Reynolds, Deputy City Manager	Todd Pinekenstein, Trans. Bld. Grounds Superintendent
Stephen Daniel	Alan Spencer, Deputy City Attorney	Lisa Bivens, Senior Admin. Assistant
Gene Jackson		
Bob Jiranek		
Fred Shanks		
Hampton Wilkins		

Guests:

Marcio Couto, Instructor and Program Manager of Aviation Maintenance Technology, Danville Community College

Melissa Mann, Dean of Career & Technical Education, Danville Community College

Michael Duncan

Ray Rodriguez

Chairman Sid Allgood called the meeting to order and requested a roll call.

Approval of Agenda

Sid Allgood said that he would like to move comments that will be provided by Marcio Couto to after the Approval of Minutes. Fred Shanks made a motion to approve the agenda for the January 13, 2026, Airport Commission meeting including the proposed change. Doug Appleton seconded the motion; all members in attendance were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Jiranek said that some of his comments were not included in the minutes. Sid Allgood commented that this could be discussed during Communications. A motion was made by Fred Shanks and seconded by Doug Appleton to approve the minutes of December 9, 2025, Airport Commission meeting as presented. All members in attendance were in favor except for Bob Jiranek, however the motion passed.

Communications from Danville Community College

Marcio Couto updated the Airport Commission regarding Danville Community College's Aviation Maintenance Program. He said they are getting close to the finish line regarding receiving program approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and then will be moving to the second step, which is obtaining approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for accreditation. They have been working with Averett University on a letter of support for the Tobacco Commission grant application that was requested. Marcio Couto invited the Airport Commission members to stop by their building at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research to see the equipment that has been received. Marcio Couto said he believes the program could begin in the fall of 2026.

Public Comment

No public comments received.

New Business

Topic: Update on the Status of Airport Projects

Action: Todd Pinekenstein updated the Airport Commission regarding the status of the Obstruction Removal, Erosion Control Mitigation and Corporate Hangar Site Preparation Construction projects.

Disposition: All projects are progressing and should be completed by this spring.

Todd Pinekenstein updated the Airport Commission regarding the Obstruction Removal project off of Runway 31. This project is in the Mountain Hill community and work began on January 7, 2026. Considerable progress has been made, and the contractor is currently approximately 75% complete.

The obstruction removal project includes 39 parcels and involves 27 property owners. Prior to this project starting last year, Todd Pinekenstein said he met with the property owners and obtained approval release documentation and requested their preference if they wanted the trees to be topped or removed. The contractor was responsible for grinding stumps and removing the debris, as necessary.

He mentioned that some property owners wanted to keep the wood and some preferred to have it removed from their property. Aubrey's Landscaping and Tree Service of Chesapeake, Virginia is responsible for completing the obstruction removal work. Discussion continued.

Marc Adelman thanked Todd Pinekenstein for coordinating the obstruction removal project with all the property owners. He mentioned that previous obstruction work completed in the past has not come close to what this project entailed. Marc Adelman said that by clearing the obstructions Runway 31's Non-Precision Instrument Approach can be activated. This area will be re-surveyed after the obstructions are addressed so the approach can be reinstated.

The Erosion Control Mitigation project is also underway. Work began on this project on January 7, 2026. This project consists of clearing brush, repairing the drainage structures, modifying the stormwater basin, pipe installation and filling for downstream erosion. Todd Pinekenstein indicated that once the project is completed it will make it a lot easier to maintain the slope and keep the fence line clear. In addition, this work will help with future development of the south ramp area as well. The contractor for this project is BW Infrastructure out of Rocky Mount, Virginia. The total budget amount approved through the Virginia Department of Aviation for this project is \$535,911 and the estimated completion date is March 10, 2026.

Considerable progress has been made recently regarding the Corporate Hangar Site Prep Construction project. A winter shutdown for this project is expected this month. Paving work requirements will be completed during the spring/summer of 2026. Images of the different projects were reviewed with the Airport Commission.

Topic: Tobacco Commission Grant application to construct corporate hangar

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning submitting a Tobacco Commission grant application to assist with financing a new corporate hangar.

Disposition: Aisha Gwynn, Danville's Grant Administrator, is preparing pre-application materials for the grant request.

Marc Adelman said that during the last Airport Commission meeting he mentioned that the city was planning to submit a Tobacco Commission Grant application to support the construction of a 100' x 100' hangar adjacent to Taxiway H, however due to cost estimates received it may be necessary to construct an 80' x 80' hangar. As part of the grant application process, it is necessary to obtain letters of support from potential users of the facility. Letters of support were requested from Averett University, Danville Community College and Air Methods. Since we met last, a representative of Air Methods contacted the airport again about the possibility of locating a modular building on the airfield. However, the projected timeline for the project is uncertain.

Based on cost estimates received for utility connections and hangar construction cost estimates and available federal infrastructure investment funds to assist with financing the project it was suggested during a budget meeting to pursue a Tobacco Commission grant to contain the local cost requirement. Other items related to the hangar construction project are listed below.

- The cost estimate to connect water and gas to the site is \$224,142 and was greater than anticipated.
- The cost estimate to extend the sewer line to the site is \$135,823 and the electric service connection estimate is \$35,645.
- A cost estimate was obtained from Dewberry to construct a 6,400 square foot hangar versus a 10,000 square foot hangar due to the estimated total project cost and funding requirements.
- Dewberry's cost estimate to construct an 80' x 80' hangar is \$1,531,383 (including design services)
- Total project cost estimate - \$1,907,028 (hangar, utility connections, and design services)

The preliminary cost estimate for the new hangar is based on supporting multiple aviation applications and would include a dry fire suppression system. The cost estimate for the hangar is also based on receiving higher bid prices than the bid for the 80' x 80' hangar that will be constructed for Averett University's flight instruction program. The planned multi-use corporate hangar will include the following:

- Ceiling height of the hangar will be designed to provide an 18' tail height clearance, but lighting and a 20' diameter ceiling fan may hang below this required clearance.
- The hangar will include an 80' x 70' stacking hangar door.
- A restroom and a 15' x 15' office space will be included with a ductless mini-split heat pump.
- The facility will include a shower and a mop sink.
- An exterior air compressor will be piped to support potential future installation of a hose reel if desired by tenant.
- Heating for the hangar space is to be radiant heating units.

Topic: Update on the South Ramp Site Prep Construction Bid

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning the status of the South Ramp Site Prep Construction project bid.

Disposition: A grant application will be submitted for the project to the Virginia Department of Aviation and will be considered during the February 2026 Virginia Aviation Board meeting.

Marc Adelman updated the Airport Commission concerning the status of South Ramp Site Prep project bid. Bids will open for the project on January 15, 2026. The bid information must be sent to the Virginia Department of Aviation by January 20, 2026. The project will include grading work for a large corporate hangar, development of a 30-space automobile parking lot and an access road to the parking lot. If funding is approved in February 2026, work should begin later this year.

Topic: Update on the Aviation Training Facility Building and Hangar Projects

Action: Marc Adelman updated the Commission on the status of the Aviation Training Facility Building and Hangar projects.

Disposition: Construction work for the hangar project has begun.

Marc Adelman informed members that footing work began for the new 80'x 80' hangar on January 14, 2026. He also mentioned that it is uncertain when steel materials for the hangar will be delivered, however it is expected that the metal for the aviation training facility building should be delivered by the end of February. A different subcontractor will complete the footings for the building. Plans call for storing construction materials inside the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) building and to coordinate with the CAP to relocate their aircraft to another hangar while it is needed.

Topic: FBO Management Update

Action: Averett University staff updated members on recent FBO activities.

Disposition: AU Aviation Services will provide additional updates at the next meeting.

Travis Williams updated the Airport Commission concerning FBO activities. On Christmas Day a pilot accessed the field to request fuel, and FBO staff addressed the pilot's needs on the holiday. He indicated that a total of 72,000 gallons of Jet A were sold in December, which is down a little from December 2024, however that is when Tyson was finishing the construction of their facility and three jets came in that month. Avgas sales were consistent compared to last year.

Travis Williams also mentioned that the flight school completed 2,000 more hours this semester compared to last semester since 25 more students were enrolled. He added that next week they expect to receive the aircraft that has been down for repairs over the past year. Last week two Chinook and five Black Hawk helicopters requested fuel, which generated sales of 2,200 gallons of fuel. Travis Williams said there was a meeting today regarding the internship program that Averett University and Danville Community College are working on and indicated they are exploring a grant that could potentially fund paid internships.

Communications

Fred Shanks and Doug Appleton commented that they are looking forward to another exciting year at the airport. Stephen Daniel commented that he enjoyed the update and seeing the equipment being used in the obstruction removal project.

Bob Jiranek said that as an Airport Commission we have an obligation to the business community, and if the business community can justify essential airline service even though it may cost \$6,000,000 or more it should be considered. He added that he does not believe the question of cost to support commercial air service is relevant at this point unless there is a need for it. He stated that he believes that research can be completed to find out if there is a need for scheduled airline service. When you look at what's going on in Lynchburg, Charlottesville and to a degree in Roanoke, it is a copout to say that Raleigh Durham is too close to Danville to try to take business away from them. But if anybody flies for their business it takes all kinds of time to get down to Raleigh Durham and to Greensboro, to park your car, get to the terminal and go through security requirements. This is important to businesses, and we have a very vibrant business community that is doing international business, not just business with the local farmers in the area but doing business globally. This airport used to have commercial airline service that was justified and may want to have it again. But whether we get it or not, we need to look at the need and the community will be very impressed if there is a need for it.

Hampton Wilkins said he agrees with Bob Jiranek. He has been to Caesars on more than one occasion to discuss this. However, they reminded him that they built Caesars Virginia in Danville not to bring players in from around the world but for players that can drive within an hour and a half.

Bob Jiranek said as a Commission we are here not to tell the community what to do but to develop information. He mentioned that with 600 people as members of the Chamber of Commerce, and not to be able to do the research work justifying the need for service, it is ridiculous. If a need doesn't exist then it can be put to bed, but if there is a need let's go ahead and deal with the grants and subsidies needed. It is silly to do it if there is no need. There is a very vibrant business community not just in Danville but in the vicinity that is traveling globally, and we need to find out. It's our job to find that out. Discussion continued.

Sid Allgood said Danville is number one in the state for tourism and Pittsylvania County is number three. Most of the corporations and businesses that rely on air travel are using NetJets and other jet services flying into Danville. They pick up the executives to transport them. We need the infrastructure to support them.

Travis Williams said that Natchez, Mississippi just got airline service back after thirty years so it may be worth checking out what they did to get the service back. Marc Adelman said he and Todd Pinekenstein will seek input from the Natchez, Mississippi airport regarding their efforts to renew commercial air service. Sid Allgood said he has been to 63 public access airports in the state of Virginia, and he would rate Danville Regional in the top 10. We have a lot of potential here and we need to develop it. Our job is to plan for the future. He said that he needs to get the availability of the Commission member for the month of April to have a planning meeting and everyone needs to plan for a full day.

Adjournment

The Airport Commission meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.