

Economic impact from airport is \$26 million

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KENANSVILLE — Duplin County’s airport (DPL) has an overall economic impact of more than \$25 million, county commissioners were told Monday, December 17. Commissioners also voted unanimously to accept a \$150,000 grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation.

Airport manager George Futrelle presented a report from the NCDOT, Division of Aviation to Commissioners at their regular meeting. The report chronicles the economic contributions of North Carolina airports and was released on December 3. Duplin County Airport (DPL) is reported to have a total impact of \$25,700,000.

The direct impact of the airport accounts for 70 jobs, economic contribution of \$15,370,000 and a payroll of \$2,820,000 per year. Indirect impact accounts for 50 jobs, economic contribution of \$7,500,000 and a payroll of \$1,580,000 per year. Induced impact accounts for 20 jobs, economic contribution of \$2,830,000 and a payroll of \$730,000 per year.

“There is movement of people, both corporate and regular passengers out of our airport,” Futrelle stated. “We have a lot of time-sensitive cargo and freight moving through it as well.”

The additional \$150,000 grant will be used for towards furnishings for the new terminal building. This grant requires a 10 percent county match, but the property that the county purchased at the airport can be use for the \$16,657 match.

Economic impacts consist of three types: direct, indirect, and induced impacts.

Direct impact is the result from economic activities of tenants and other business users who have a direct involvement with the airport. This is related to airport staff and on-site companies that are directly engaged in airport operations or aviation services which can include manufacturing, shipping, receiving, exporting, distributing, transporting, handling, or processing people and goods which move through an airport, including employees engaged in these activities and personnel employed by an airport.

Indirect impacts result from economic activities that typically take place away from the airport, but are still attributable to the airport. Indirect contributions represent the impacts of spending by airport-related firms on products and services provided by support businesses.

Induced impacts result from successive spending and are the multiple effects of the direct and indirect impacts.

The airport also supports the generation of state and local taxes from tenants and businesses using the airport with an estimated \$159,000 in business sales tax, \$120,000 in local property tax, \$128,000 in state corporate and personal tax, and \$81,000 in property tax on based aircraft.

“We receive \$29,000 annually on sales tax from fuel annually,” Futrelle explained ... “and we collect property taxes on the 23 aircraft that are based at our airport with a property tax value of \$13 million.”

Commissioners thanked Futrelle for all he had done managing the airport.

“It is not my doing,” Futrelle responded. “It is the support you the current commissioners and those in the past have given to the airport. The state recognizes that we have an active airport.”

Futrelle stated that the Division of Aviation looked at three primary items before deciding to issue grant money. Those three are county commissioner support, whether there is an active airport board, and if there is an active airport manager. “We have all three,” Futrelle added.

Duplin County Airport has a runway that is 6,002 feet in length and 75 feet wide. Services provided at the airport are charter aircraft, general aviation, military aircraft, helicopter, jet fuel, Avgas, aircraft repair, car rental, vending, hangar rental, tie down and observation points. Thirteen tenant/users were surveyed with a total of seven

surveys returned for this report.

The airspace at Duplin County Airport is controlled by Seymour Johnson Air Force in Goldsboro.

The airport was used in the filming of scenes for the upcoming Ironman III movie. Plans are to use the revenue from the film company for the installation of the telephone in the new terminal building that is scheduled to be completed by the end of March.

Duplin County Economic Development offices are also located at the airport. A National Weather Service reporting station is located on the grounds of the airport. The airport operates under the Duplin County Airport Commission. Commission members are: Chairman Bob Quinn, Jack Alphin, Joe Bryant, Larry Debose, Bob Johnson, Ricky Kelly, Jerry Tysinger, and Mike Webster. County commissioner Harold Raynor represents the county.

The total economic contribution of North Carolina's 72 publicly-owned airports is approximately \$25.9 billion supporting over 108,000 jobs.

The direct contributions for general aviation airports came from surveys of airport management, tenants, and major users. Direct contributions from commercial airports were derived from operations at the airports.