

FREE



The People News

OF BRADLEY COUNTY

www.thepeoplenews.com

FREE



MAY

VOL 12 ISSUE 4

2009

Final Cost of Airport Still Mystery

2 million cubic yards of dirt needs to be moved for grading. Engineers would not comment on final cost

by Ashley Murphy
Staff Report

The Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority published a notice in *The Cleveland Daily Banner* on Friday, April 10, 2009 to advertise a change of meeting times. The original meeting, set for April 17, 2009 was cancelled and a special meeting was called for the earlier

date of April 14, 2009 at 9am to be held at the Cleveland Municipal Building. The published notice did not specify the topic to be discussed, but it was stated at the beginning of the meeting that they were to hear updates for the planning and funding of the Cleveland Municipal Airport. According to TCA § 5-5-105c1, Special Meetings: The call shall be made by publica-

tion in some newspaper published in the county, or by personal notices sent by the county clerk, at least five (5) days before the time of the convening of the county legislative body, which call or notice shall specify the objects and purposes for the special session is called, and no other business but that embraced in the call shall be transacted during the sitting

of the special term. Tony Mancini and Mark Paslick of PDC Consulting were present to deliver the following updates:

First on the update list was wetland mitigation. The original plans were to have the land mitigation offsite in Marion County. At the public hearing for the Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority on February 10, 2009 several county residents had many concerns about mitigating lands outside of Bradley County. The state took notice of these concerns and are now looking at two possible sites (Rolling Hills and Beaty Farm) to keep these wetlands within the county. If both locations are buyable, then it will come down to how much acreage is available at Rolling Hills and Beaty Farm and how much acreage is needed for the mitigation.

Mark Paslick went on to discuss Archaeological Phase III of the airport site. Excavation has begun and he wanted to discuss what should happen if any artifacts happen to be found here. While we do have a history museum here in Cleveland, it will not be for the city to decide where these artifacts will go. A report is drawn up and will be submitted to the Tennessee Historical Commission, who will make the final decision as to where the artifacts will be placed.

Tony Mancini proceeded to discuss funding for the airport. There will be federal discretionary monies from

the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of \$3.2 million with a 5% local match and state funding of \$4.5 million with a 10% local match. This will bring the total amount to around \$8.1 million. Chairwoman of the Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority, Lynn DeVault, also made the comment during the meeting that the airport has already received \$5 million for water and sewer and another \$5 million for hangars, both from the City of Cleveland.

When *The People News* contacted Mr. Mancini following the meeting to get additional information, he stated the above funding is for Phase I of the project only. Although this information is public and was given at a public meeting, Mr. Mancini requested that we not divulge these numbers in our report, as they are not set figures and could change at any time throughout the process.

The People News also requested a description for the different phases of the project along with cost estimates for each phase. Mr. Mancini said that he was unable to release that information without first discussing it with the Cleveland Municipal Airport Authority. No information was found to enable *The People News* to contact the Airport Authority to request the documents directly from them. There is no direct website, only a page within the City of Cleveland website, and it

provides no information in regards to the Airport Authority members or their contact information, and very little information regarding the new airport.

After reviewing funding, Mr. Mancini then went on to discuss mass grading, the taxi, and the runway. They are looking at November 2009 as the earliest that mass grading could start and maybe even as late as Spring 2010. Because there is such a large scale area to cover, there will be over two million cubic yards of dirt to be moved. If the mass grading carries over into the Spring of 2010, this would put a delay on the paving of the taxi and runway. Both the taxi and runway are planned for concrete and because of temperature and set time, it would be 2011 before the paving process would begin. Questions then arose about the weight limit of the concrete taxi and runway, which Mark Paslick confirmed to be about 60,000 pounds.

The Airport Authority was also shown six different options for the 18" water lines that will have to be relocated. Options 1, 2, and 3 all ran into the runway and/or the taxi. Option 6 would be located in a flood plain. Rick Hudgens, Operations Specialist in the Aeronautics Division of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, said these options could potentially pose a problem. If something were to go wrong with one of the water lines, none would be easily accessible.

...Continued on Page 4.



Old Soldiers Never Die... page 3.

DEDICATED TO TELL YOU WHAT THE OTHERS WON'T