

While formulating a recommendation to the Council regarding establishment of an Airport Committee, I was provided a copy of the, *Tennessee Airport Management Manual*, produced by Middle Tennessee State University under a grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics. I found that their recommendations included an Airport Committee.

The following recommendations are from this manual:

### *1.0 Policy Making*

Policy making in a governmental operation is normally considered to be a function of elected officials. In most city or county governments, the process is carried out by the legislative organization. It is our belief that broad policy decisions concerning the community airport be handled in the same manner as decision making for any other public utility. In the same way that electric company boards and managers provide expert advice and input to the legislative body, so should the airport committee/commission and manager.

In some communities, the airport committee has little expertise in the complex field of airport management; input to decision making comes from the airport manager/operator only. We believe that this could represent a potentially harmful arrangement with the manager/operator becoming virtually accountable to no one, making policy that may or may not be in the public interest. In those communities where the board lacks aeronautical experience, we strongly recommend open meetings on a regularly scheduled basis with aircraft owners/pilots, aviation organizations and supporters to garner input to the decision making process.

### *2.0 Operational Rules & Regulations*

We strongly recommend that the operating rules for each public airport be published in the form of an Airport Rules and Regulations document. It would preferably be separate from the Minimum Standards document for ease of making and distributing changes to the rules and regulations without affecting the whole document. The rules and regulations document should be widely distributed to airport users and law enforcement agencies. Aircraft owners and pilots are usually cooperative and should not object to reasonable restrictions in the name of safety. It might be best to keep in mind that a few rules rigidly enforced serve a more useful purpose than having a number of minor regulations which cannot be enforced.

The development and promulgation of the airport Rules and Regulations for the airport is a very important responsibility of the airport board/committee and manager. However, since every airport in Tennessee is different in design, size and usage, it is virtually impossible for any outside agency to do much more than suggest broad general guidelines in this section of the airport manual.