

Board Makes Haste To OK Runway Work

Journal Staff Report

The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners met for just over a minute yesterday to approve a \$182,000 repaving project for the Smith Reynolds Airport runway.

It was the only business on the agenda. The commissioners adjourned almost before they could all sit down.

Graham Pervier, the assistant county manager who managed the meeting, said that the county got word Thursday that the Federal Aviation Administration had approved a \$166,000 grant for the project.

"But the federal fiscal year ends midnight Monday, and they said we could get the money if we got it out of this year's budget," he said.

The state's open meetings law requires boards to give at least 48 hours' notice of any meeting. Yesterday afternoon was the earliest the board could arrange the meeting so that the local airport authority could get the grant agreement signed and sent in time, said airport manager Roger Morgan.

"They said if they got the papers October 1, we could have the money," he said. "So I'll 'Federal Express' it to them Monday morning."

The money is for resurfacing, strengthening and marking the 50-by-1,720-foot runway and the 16,400-square-yard apron. Morgan said that the runway has not been resurfaced in his 30 years with the airport.

The federal money will be given to the county. So the commissioners also had to amend the budget to show the extra \$166,000 income and then allocate the same money to the airport. They did that and approved the grant with a single unanimous vote.

The airport and the state Department of Transportation must each come up with \$8,300 in matching money for the federal grant. The airport money will come from airport fees and rents. No money will come from the county's general fund.