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**Westmoreland County Airport Authority**

**Westmoreland County Airport Authority  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting  
August 10, 2010**



## Regular Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority was held Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Unity Township, Pennsylvania, in accordance with notice given.

Authority Vice Chairman Donald Rossi led the Pledge of Allegiance, called the meeting to order and directed that the following members be recorded as present:

Donald Rossi - Vice Chairman  
Oland Canterna - Treasurer  
Janice Smarto - Asst. Secretary/Treasurer  
Anthony Ferrante  
Mark Gera  
Edward Kilkeary Sr.

Also present were: Authority Executive Director Gabe Monzo; Attorney Donald Snyder of McDonald, Snyder & Lightcap, authority solicitor; Edward Nasuti of Lee-Simpson Associates, authority engineer; Thomas Lynch, authority bond counsel; Donald "Doc" Giffin, representing Mr. Palmer; reporters AJ Panian of the Tribune-Review and Marie McCandless of the Latrobe Bulletin; pilots John Miller and Valetta Mowry; and authority Administrative Assistant Linda Brasile.

Mr. Rossi called for a moment of silence in honor of Edward F. Sobota, 65, of Latrobe, and Theodore Kokolis, 66, of Moon Township, Allegheny County, who were killed Saturday, Aug. 7, when Sobota's airplane crashed into a house in Bell Township, Westmoreland County. Mr. Sobota and Mr. Kokolis, a certified flight examiner with the Federal Aviation Administration, had taken off from Arnold Palmer Regional Airport 11 minutes prior to the crash, which remains under investigation by the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Administration.

Mr. Rossi then called for an executive session to discuss real estate matters. The executive session ended at 9:15 a.m.

### Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Smarto, minutes from the July 13, 2010, regular meeting were unanimously approved.



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### Public Comments - None

#### **Arnold Palmer Regional Airport Treasurer's Report** by Mr. Canterna

Mr. Canterna reviewed financial statements, expenses disbursed and accounts payable for July, 2010, for Arnold Palmer Regional Airport.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Gera, financial statements, expenses disbursed and accounts payable for July, 2010, for Arnold Palmer Regional Airport were unanimously approved (copies attached).

#### **Rostraver Airport Treasurer's Report** by Mr. Canterna

Mr. Canterna reviewed financial statements, expenses disbursed and accounts payable for July, 2010, for Rostraver Airport.

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Kilkeary, financial statements, expenses disbursed and accounts payable for July, 2010, for Rostraver Airport were unanimously approved (copies attached).

**Chairman's Report** – Mr. Rossi called upon Mr. Lynch to review a proposed refunding of the authority's 2005 Series bonds to realize a savings of about \$100,000 that would be available after settlement later this month to be used for capital projects. Mr. Gera said the authority must retain the right to review and modify the cost of issuance for the refunding issue, which will mature at the same date as the original issuance, 2027.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Canterna, the authority unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the refunding of the 2005 series bonds with a minimum nets savings level of \$90,000, or roughly 2% (a copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes).

Mr. Rossi expressed deep remorse over the deaths of Mr. Sobota and Mr. Kokolis. "They were great people, great pilots, both Ed and Ted. To understand this terrible tragedy is beyond my comprehension," he said. Mr. Monzo reported that a memorial mass will be held at St. Vincent Basilica on Wednesday. Several board members reported that they would attend.

#### **Committee Reports**

Mr. Ferrante reported that a short memorial observation would be held Sunday at noon during the Westmoreland Wings & Wheels open house at Arnold Palmer Regional to honor Mr. Sobota and Mr. Kokolis. The ceremony will include a performance by the Latrobe Volunteer Fire Department Pipe and Drum Corps and a four-ship "missing man" formation fly over.



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**Engineer's Report** by Edward Nasuti

### **Upgrade MALSR - Contract No. 94 - FAA Project 33-09**

Mr. Nasuti reported that the contractor, Dave Kronenwetter, is still working on completing punch list items.

### **Acquire ARFF Vehicle - Contract No. 98 - FAA Project 34-09**

The truck has been delivered and a final inspection was held with FAA on Aug. 5, 2010, Mr. Nasuti said. However, the manufacturer still needs to deliver a number of auxiliary equipment items before the engineer will recommend acceptance of the project.

### **Access Road Improvements - Contract No. 86 - FAA Project 34-09**

#### **ARFF Building Design - FAA Project 35-10**

Mr. Nasuti reported that both projects have been advertised and bids are scheduled to be opened on Monday, Aug. 16, 2010.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Ferrante, the engineer was unanimously authorized to prepare and submit grant applications for the Access Road Improvement project to the FAA following review of the bids.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Smarto, the engineer was unanimously authorized to prepare and submit grant applications for the ARFF Building Design project to the FAA following review of the bids.

### **Latrobe Aviation Hangar - Office Demolition**

Final inspection was held on July 15, 2010. The engineer recommended acceptance of the project

Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mrs. Smarto, the project was accepted as complete.

### **Rehab Runway 5-23 and Parallel TW, Phase 1 - Contract No. 100 - FAA Project No. 35-10**

Final inspection was held on Aug. 5, 2010. All work is complete. The contractor, Axtell's Inc., must submit final project documentation prior to the engineer recommending acceptance of the project.

### **Fuel Farm Site Improvements - Contract No. 103**

Final inspection was held on July 15, 2010. All work is complete. The engineer recommended final acceptance of the project.



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Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Canterna, the project was accepted as complete.

### **At Rostraver Airport:**

#### **Taxiway Lighting Project Phase I - Contract No. 18 - FAA Project 14-09**

Mr. Nasuti reported that final inspection was held last month. The contractor is working to complete several punch list items.

#### **Rehabilitate Runway 8-26 and Parallel Taxiway - Contract No. 20 - FAA Project 16-10**

Final inspection was held on Aug. 5, 2010. All work is complete. The contractor, Axtell's Inc., must submit final project documentation prior to the engineer recommending acceptance of the project.

#### **Hangars - Contract No. 21**

Bids were received for the project on Aug. 4, 2010. Of the three bids received, the apparent low bid was \$367,080.47, Mr. Nasuti reported. However, after reviewing the bids and a considerable amount of conversation with airport management, based on the current demand for hangar space at the airport, the engineer recommended that the authority reject all bids, reformat the design and rebid the project for just one hangar at Rostraver, he said.

Mr. Monzo explained that an unusual availability of hangar space at Rostraver has reduced the demand for new hangars at the present time. Currently, there is demand for only one hangar of the size proposed in the project (roughly 60' x 40'), he said, noting that the funding source for the project creates too high of a local share burden for the authority.

Mr. Nasuti added, "It is a little bit more difficult with this funding source, because it's 50-50, whereas most of our projects are 95% funded."

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Gera, all bids were unanimously rejected and the engineer was authorized to redesign and re-advertise the project.

#### **Requisitions by Dwayne Pickels**

Mr. Pickels reviewed the requisitions for August, 2010.

#### **Arnold Palmer Regional Airport (Latrobe)**

Project 37-10, Requisition No. 5, totaling \$24,193.46; Latrobe - ACB-2008-Westmoreland Co AA-0003 (Corporate Hangar Area) Requisition No. 14, totaling \$50,372.88.

#### **Rostraver Airport**

Project 16-10 Requisition No. 5, totaling \$21,736.91.



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### **Construction Fund Investment Account (Series 2009)**

Requisition No. 25, totaling \$2,296.53.

### **First Commonwealth - Account No. 7110075814**

Requisition Nos. 85 and 86, totaling \$55,379.87.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Canterna, requisitions for August were unanimously approved (copies attached). Mr. Kilkeary and Mr. Ferrante abstained from the vote.

### **Solicitor's Report** by Donald Snyder

Mr. Snyder reported that he has retained Gothie Van Allen, LLC, a specialized sales tax law firm based in Harrisburg, to assist him in the authority's tax appeal with the state regarding collection of state sales tax from hangar tenants.

Upon the motion of Mr. Kilkeary, seconded by Mr. Gera, the retention was unanimously approved (a copy of the engagement letter is attached).

### **Executive Director's Report** by Gabe Monzo

Mr. Monzo reported the Richard King Mellon Foundation has approved a grant request in the amount of \$130,000 to purchase snow removal (blower) equipment for the airport.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Canterna, acceptance of the grant was unanimously ratified.

Mr. Rossi directed that a letter of thanks be drafted to the foundation on the authority's behalf. "We owe that foundation so much," he said. "They have really taken care of us over the years."

Mr. Monzo also requested the authority's consent to purchase needed additional mowing attachments for the equipment at a cost of approximately \$13,000 through the Co-Stars program.

Upon the motion of Mr. Kilkeary, seconded by Mr. Gera, purchase of the additional mowing equipment was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo said that there are two properties available for purchase near the airport off Route 981. The property owners have approached airport management with an offer. The property committee has reviewed the proposal and directed that an appraisal be completed.



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Upon the motion of Mr. Canterna, seconded by Mr. Gera, Hayden Appraisal Services was unanimously authorized to prepare appraisals on the properties discussed.

Mr. Monzo reported that the snow removal emergency reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now expected to total in excess of \$40,000. "That's going to be a great help to our budget," he said. "We took a pretty good hit back in February."

Mr. Monzo also asked permission to purchase a pickup truck and plow through the federal surplus program for approximately \$12,000. "We are currently down two trucks," he said.

Upon the motion of Mr. Ferrante, seconded by Mr. Canterna, the purchase of a pickup truck and plow through the federal surplus program was authorized unanimously.

### **Control Tower Report**

Mr. Pickels reported that there were 3,106 aircraft operations at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in July.

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business** - None

Sobota

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, upon the motion of Mr. Canterna, seconded by Mr. Gera, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority will be held:

**Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 9 a.m. at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Dwayne Pickels  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Secretary