

**Westmoreland County Airport Authority
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
March 11, 2025**

Regular Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled March meeting of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority was held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in the Authority Conference Room at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Unity Township, Pennsylvania, in accordance with notice given.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Whittaker, who led the Pledge of Allegiance and directed that the following members be recorded as present:

Paul Whittaker - Chairman
Janice Smarto - Vice Chairman
Gary Beck Sr.
Mark Gera
Richard Pologruto

Also present were: Executive Director Gabe Monzo; attorney Amber Leechalk of Avolio Law, authority solicitor; Scott Kunselman of McFarland-Johnson, authority engineers; Rich Cholodosfky, Tribune-Review; Joe Wells, Latrobe Bulletin; Don Armitage of Laurel Highlands Jet Center; Pilot Valetta Mowry; Anthony DeNunzio of DeNunzio's; Airport Manager Moe Haas and Grants Director Dwayne Pickels.

An executive session was called at 9 a.m to discuss property matters. The board re-convened at 9:02 a.m.

Public Comments - None

Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Beck, minutes of the Feb. 11, 2025, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport and Rostraver Treasurer's Reports -

Mrs. Smarto reviewed treasurers reports for February.

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Beck, the February, 2025, treasurer's report for Arnold Palmer Regional Airport was unanimously approved.

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Gera, the February, 2025, treasurer's report for Rostraver Airport was unanimously approved.

Rostraver Committee Report - Mr. Beck reported that the new restaurant at the airport is now open two days a week and is doing well.

Property Committee Report - Mr. Gera had no report.

Engineer's Update Report - by Mr. Kunselman of McFarland-Johnson

ARNOLD PALMER REGIONAL AIRPORT

Relocate Taxiways D and E

This project is to remove and reconstruct two stub taxiways to meet current FAA safety guidance, Mr. Kunselman said. Construction is planned to start by the end of March, 2025.

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Terminal Addition & Improvements/Apron Equipment Storage Building Design

This project is to design and bid an addition and improvements for the terminal. Construction of the first phase began in October, 2024, and is expected to last about 14 months. The Engineer recommended approval of Change Order No. 4 for UST soil removal and floor painting for the general contractor, Allegheny Construction Group, Inc., in the amount of a \$23,310.79 ADD for a new contract amount of \$8,080,449.94. FAA concurrence is pending.

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Gera, Change Order No. 4 was unanimously approved.

A final inspection for the AESB was held on Feb. 5, 2025, with minor punch list items to be addressed. Bids are scheduled to be opened on Phase II of the Terminal project on April 17, 2025. Bids were opened on Feb. 27, 2025, for renovating the existing PBB and obtaining a second new PBB. Low bid for the PBB renovation was from Dabico A-Bridge for \$899,049.00 and the low bid for the new PBB was from Oshkosh Ameritech for \$1,303,485.00.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mrs. Smarto, the bids were awarded unanimously.

A grant application was submitted to PA BOA for approval, including Costars contracts for hold room seating (Sadler \$119,218.00) security equipment (DES, \$517,891.45) and a fire system panel (DirecTec, \$29,115.69)

Snow removal Vehicle and Equipment

This project was to acquire a 20 ft. broom, carrier vehicle, and equipment for snow removal through the Costars program using a BIL grant from the FAA to replace an existing obsolete vehicle. The vehicle was delivered on May 30, 2024. A final inspection was held with FAA on June 27, 2024. Punch list items have been addressed. It was determined that a dump hood is needed for the broom. A quote from M-B Companies, Inc. was received for \$24,561.04. Discussions with FAA have indicated that it should be eligible for grant funding if Federal Contract provisions are complied with.

ARFF Vehicle and Equipment

This project is to acquire a new B-IV Airport Rescue & Fire Fighting vehicle and equipment. The existing vehicle was acquired in 2010 and is deemed obsolete by NFPA and FAA Part 139. Separate bids are scheduled to be opened on April 17, 2025, for a new vehicle and replacement equipment.

ATCT Improvements

This project consists of habitability and accessibility improvements of the Air Traffic Control Tower, which was originally built in 1981. The project is 100% FAA funded, Mr. Kunselman said. Final inspection for Phase I was held on June 27, 2024, with all punch list items addressed. Phase II construction began Oct. 7 and is planned to last through May.

GA Corporate Hangar Entrance

This project would include access and parking improvements to the corporate hangar area. Preliminary plans and renderings have been prepared and funding is being sought. Due to compliance issues with TSA regulations, it is proposed to move forward with modifications proposed by the Engineer in the near future with Authority funds to improve security and safety, and seeking reimbursement of those costs when the larger project is funded.

ROSTRAVER AIRPORT:

AWOS Replacement

Design has begun to replace the existing AWOS, which was installed in 2000 and is now obsolete, Mr. Kunselman said. Bids for a replacement system are scheduled to be opened on April 17, 2025.

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PROMOTIONS - Mr. Monzo reported that the first advertising for the airshow has gone out. “Things are moving forward,” he said. “We have our 100th anniversary advertising in the newspaper and the lineup is coming together very nicely.”

Mr. Monzo review the present roster of performers, including the Jersey Jerks, Eric Edgren, the Snowbirds and an F-16 tactical demo and an F-16 heritage flight with a P-51. We also have some really nice things coming for the promotions. It’s going to be a lot of fun and we are looking forward to a great event. It’s coming together very nicely.”

He also announced that a special is running this weekend (St. Patrick’s Day) discounting VIP to \$150.

REQUISITIONS - Mr. Pickels reviewed the requisitions for January, 2025

LATROBE

Latrobe 69-24 Terminal Addition PH I (FAA PH II) Requisition No. 5, totaling \$266,313.55 (Allegheny Constr)

Latrobe 70-24 (Terminal Addition PH I, III) Requisition No. 6, totaling \$251,989.99 (Allegheny/HRANEC/A-1)

Latrobe 71-24 (Remove/Reconstruct TW D CA) Requisition No. 6, totaling \$6,002.40 (MJ)

Latrobe 73-24 (ATCT Improvements PH II) Requisition No. 7, totaling \$116,243.58 (MJ/ABS)

Latrobe 74-24 (Terminal Add & Improvements PH I) Req. No. 6, totaling \$26,934.36 (MJ/Dabico A-Bridge)

Latrobe WCIDC Requisition No. 14, totaling \$314,340.40 (MJ/A-1 Elec/DirecTec/Allegheny/HRANEC)

Special Projects Account 7110075814 Requisition No. 261, totaling \$1,321.14

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Beck, requisitions for March, 2024, were unanimously approved as presented.

Solicitor’s Report - Amber Leechalk

Mrs. Leechalk reported that a land development agreement with the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation has been approved to develop airport land to generate revenues to be shared by both parties under the auspices of the authority’s recently adopted ALDZ program. “So this is the last box that needs to be checked,” Mrs. Leechalk said.

Upon the motion of Mr. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Smarto, the agreement with WCIDC was unanimously approved.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Monzo reported that a PA Department of Labor and Industry audit was completed last week and “all requirements were met...and it gets us a 5% discount on workers’ compensation at both airports.”

Spirit Airlines has added twice a week flights to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., he added. With the previous addition daily Myrtle Beach, “this brings about 10 employees back to full time status.”

“We’re hoping that this is a sign of bigger and better things to come,” Mr. Monzo said. “We are ecstatic that they have found their way clear to do this.”

Mr. Monzo added that an equipment liability form has been created that will cover the authority under general liability for airport equipment loaned to other parties.

Upon the motion of Mrs. Smarto, seconded by Mr. Gera, the equipment liability form was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo also reported that a “veritport” design for drones and electric aircraft competition will be held Wednesday with about 100 gifted students from eight area school districts participating. “We’re looking forward to see what they come up with.”

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Chairman's Report

Mr. Whittaker reported that he is adding a new committee to the slate, which is the Real Estate Review, which will be headed by Mrs. Smarto and will include Mr. Pologruto.
A list of new committee appointments was distributed.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the authority will be held **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 9 a.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dwayne Pickels, Grants Director