

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

Regular Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled July meeting of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority was held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, November 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
Vincent Finoli - Treasurer
Edward Kilkeary, Sr. - Secretary (by phone)
Donald Rossi
Gary Beck Sr.
Mark Gera
Richard Pologruto

Also present were: Executive Director Gabe Monzo; attorney Amber Leechalk of Avolio Law, authority solicitor; Scott Kunselman and Raena Lindemuth of McFarland-Johnson, authority engineers; Ethan Hine, authority architect; Westmoreland County Commissioner Sean Kertes; Jeff Himler of the Tribune Review; Abigail Hakas of the Latrobe Bulletin; Paul Gough of the Pittsburgh Business Times; pilot Valetta Mowry, Anthony DeNunzio of DeNunzio's; Airport Manager Moe Haas and Grants Director Dwayne Pickels.

A moment of silence was held in honor of all veterans.

An executive session was held from 9:01 to 9:18 a.m. to discuss real estate and legal matters.

Public Comments - None

Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion of Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Finoli, minutes of the October 14, 2025, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport and Rostraver Treasurer's Reports -

Mr. Finoli reviewed treasurers reports for October, 2025.

Upon the motion of Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Gera, October, 2025, treasurer's report for Arnold Palmer Regional Airport was unanimously approved.

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

Rostraver Committee Report - Mr. Beck reported that he has met with airport staff and "all is going well there."

Ms. Leechalk reported that the lease with the operator at the restaurant at Rostraver Airport (Droopy's) is ending so we are trying to negotiate an addendum to the lease "so that we can move forward with keeping them as a tenant."

Upon the motion of Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, approval to negotiate the lease addendum was grant unanimously.

Property Committee Report - Mr. Gera reported that the committee is recommending that a new rule be adopted for “as long as there is construction is ongoing with the new building that larger aircraft be towed and not under power when taxiing through the construction area.

Upon the motion of Mr. Finoli, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, the recommendation was approved.

Penalties for violation of the rule remain to be determined.

Mr. Monzo recommended that a letter of reprimand be issued to pilots who violate the rule and a copy be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mr. Gera also reported that the committee recommended that the Public Safety Building on Kilo Lane be renamed the Gabe Monzo Public Safety Center.

Upon the motion of Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, renaming of the public safety build was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo said the renaming was “pretty cool.”

Mr. Gera said the committee also recommended creating a plaque for the new terminal addition to be hung upon completion.

Upon the motion of Mr. Finoli, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, approval was granted unanimously for a new plaque to be created for the terminal project.

Engineer’s Update Report - by Scott 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. Construction began in April, 2025. Taxiway E is substantially complete and Taxiway D is substantially complete except for seeding and new sign installation. The hope is to have Taxiway A opened by the end of the week and return in the spring for seeding and completion.

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 October, 28, 2024.

The Engineer recommended approval of the following:

Change Orders for TSA requested changes No. 8A for the general contractor Allegheny Construction, in the amount of \$16,820 ADD and a new total contract amount of \$7,980,889.29, No. 3B for the electrical contractor, A-1 Electric, in the amount of \$8,957.14 ADD and a new total contract amount of \$2,099,169.50, and No. 2 for the plumbing contractor,, Wheels Mechanical, in the amount of \$662.50 ADD and a new contract amount of \$564,412.50. Also Change Orders No. 4B and 5B for the delayed setting of the emergency generator and enlarging the transformer pad respectively for the Electrical Contractor, A-1 Electric, in the amount of \$13,489.62 ADD and a new total contract amount of \$2,112,659.18. Concurrence from FAA has been received and three of the four proposed agreements have been executed. A pre-construction meeting was held on Nov. 5, 2025.

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,

Westmoreland County Airport Authority

Inc. was received. Discussions with FAA have indicated that it should be eligible for grant funding if Federal Contract provisions are complied with. Awaiting confirmation from the supplier.

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. Bids were opened on April 17, 2025, for a new vehicle and replacement equipment. No responsive bids were received for the ARFF equipment. A grant application has been filed for review. The engineer is proceeding with exploring purchasing the equipment through eligible Costars suppliers or rebidding for next grant season. Truck information was received 10/14/25 for review by airport staff.

ATCT Improvements PH II

This project will consist of 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, 2024. Final inspection with FAA was held June 24, 2025, and all punch list items have been addressed. Contractor is addressing some maintenance items.

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

The project is to replace the existing AWOS, which was installed in 2000 and is now obsolete, Mr. Kunselman said. Bids for a replacement system were opened April 17, 2025. A grant has been offered by FAA and accepted. The agreement has been executed with the contractor (Bronder) and a pre-construction meeting was held on Oct. 9, 2025.

PROMOTIONS - Mr. Monzo reported that, following today's meeting, a Veterans Day ceremony will be held at the flag memorial in the airport parking lot. Following that ceremony the new pavilion located adjacent will be dedicated to the late Linda Brasile, a long-time authority employee, who passed away nearly two years ago.

REQUISITIONS - Mr. Monzo reviewed the requisitions for June, 2025

Latrobe 69-24 Terminal Addition PH I (FAA PH II) Requisition No. 12, totaling \$468,858.37 (Allegheny Constr)
Latrobe 70-24 (Terminal Addition PH II, III) Requisition No. 13, totaling \$73,985.96 (A-1/Hranec/Wheels)
Latrobe 71-24 (Remove/Reconstruct TW D CA) Requisition No. 13, totaling \$510,556.12 (MJ/A. Liberoni)
Latrobe 72-24 (Remove/Reconstruct TW E CA) Requisition No. 12, totaling \$31,892.75 (A. Liberoni)
Latrobe 74-24 (Terminal Add & Improvements PH I) Req. No. 13, totaling \$22,367.33 (MJ)
Latrobe 76-25 (McFarland Johnson) Req. No. 2, totaling \$22,367.33 (MJ)
Latrobe WCIDC Requisition No. 21, totaling \$366,643.05 (MJ/A-1/Allegheny/Wheels/Hranec)
Latrobe ESA-2024-1022-4615 Requisition No. 3, totaling \$153,178.55 (MJ/Dabico A-Bridge)
Rostraver 33-25 (AWOS Replacement) Req. No. 2, totaling \$4,034.28 (MJ)
Special Projects Account 7110075814 Requisition No. 268, totaling \$92,866.89

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Finoli, requisitions for November, 2025, were unanimously approved as presented.

Solicitor's Report - Amber Leechalk

Mrs. Leechalk had no additional report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Monzo thanked the authority for naming the Public Safety Building after him.

Westmoreland County Airport Authority

“It’s quite the honor for me,” he said. “I started in the fire service in 1975 and it’s been quite the whirlwind of experiences for those 50 years. Public safety has always been number one in my heart and safety has always been a top priority for this airport. Thank you to everybody involved.”

“We have run into some issue for immediate funding need for this (terminal construction),” Mr. Monzo said, requesting permission to seek a loan of \$2.9 million to cover construction expenses until awarded grant funding can be received from state and federal funding agencies. “The RACP funds that we have coming in is well within the process, and we anticipate that this money will be coming in within the next six months. This loan will the project operational until it is received. I’ve got the lowest rate that I can possibly get. It’s more or less a procedure so that we can keep the contractors paid throughout this stall in government funding.”

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Finoli, permission to acquire the loan of \$2.9 million was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo reported that a proposal for solar power for the airport was received from Veregy Energy and grant funding is being sought from the PennDOT Bureau of Aviation and a private foundation.

Upon the motion Mr, Beck, seconded by Mr. Finoli, a motion to allow Veregy to complete a needed preliminary energy assessment at no cost to the authority was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo said a meeting will be held Wednesday with Vector Airport Systems to initiate landing fee collection for the airport. “We anticipate doubling the amount of landing fee revenue with them,” he said.

Mr. Monzo requested that Volaire Air Systems, an aviation consulting firm, be contracted to assist with air service development for the airport. “As you know, things are happening in aviation as far as commercial service is concerned,” he said. “It’s very, very important that we stay on top of things and this firm comes very highly rated. Mr. Monzo request permission to enter into an agreement with Volaire for \$3,000 per month for the next six months, totaling \$18,000. “I highly recommend it,” he said.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, the request was granted unanimously.

Mrs. Leechalk recommended that the nominating committee prepare a slate of officers to be discussed at the December meeting and voted on at the January, 2026, meeting.

Mr. Monzo reported that donations were received for the TSA food program. “It’s been working fabulously, and thank you to those who donated — the Latrobe Rotary, the Greenburg Rotary — and tomorrow, the Westmoreland Food Bank will be here passing out food boxes to TSA workers, starting at 9 a.m.

Last week we had 135 gifted high school students from 10 school districts in Westmoreland County here talking about marketing programs for airports. “They’re excited about it,” Mr. Monzo said.

Chairman’s Report - Mr. Whittaker thanked Commissioner Sean Kertes for attending the meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dwayne Pickels, Grants Director