

**Westmoreland County Airport Authority
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
September 9, 2025**

Regular Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled May meeting of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority was held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, in the Blaine Hill BBQ restaurant at Rostraver Airport in Rostraver 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
Edward Kilkeary, Sr. - Secretary
Donald Rossi
Gary Beck Sr.
Mark Gera
Richard Pologruto
Vincent Finoli (by phone)

Also present were: Executive Director Gabe Monzo; attorney Amber Leechalk of Avolio Law, authority solicitor; Scott Kunselman of McFarland-Johnson, authority engineers; reporter Jeff Himler of the Tribune Review; Paul Gough of the Pittsburgh Business Journal; Joe Wells of the Latrobe Bulletin; Pilot Valetta Mowry; Administrative Assistant Kayla Hawkins and HR Director Noel Bernabeo; Airport Manager Moe Haas, Grants Director Dwayne Pickels, and state Representative Eric Davanzo.

A moment of silence was observed for authority Vice Chairman Janice Smarto, who recently passed away.

An Executive Session was held from 9:01 to 9:25 a.m. to discuss personnel and other issues.

Public Comments - None

Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion of Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Kilkeary, minutes of the July 8, 2025, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport and Rostraver Treasurer's Reports -

Mr. Kilkeary reviewed treasurers reports for July and August, 2025 (copies attached).

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

Upon the motion of Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Gera, the July and August, 2025, treasurer's report for Rostraver Airport was unanimously approved.

Rostraver Committee Report - Mr. Beck reported that the airport is "in good shape" and the staff there are "doing a good job."

Mr. Monzo reported that plans for the Dunkin' store on Rostraver Airport property are "moving along." He said he spoke with Dan Orie, a solicitor for the chain, and has agreed that if the authority will assist in completing repaving work on the entrance, Dunkin developers will refurbish the airport entrance sign.

Property Committee Report - Mr. Gera had no report and deferred to Mr. Kunselman.

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. Mr. Kunselman reported that Taxiway E is nearly complete.

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. Bids were opened for PH II construction on April 17, 2025. Two grants have been offered by FAA and accepted for the second phase of the Terminal Addition. The Engineer recommended approval of Change Order 7A for two additional steel joists for the general contractor, Allegheny Construction Group, in the amount of \$13,911 ADD for a new total contract amount of \$7,964,069.29. FAA has concurred with the change. The Engineer also recommended approval of CO No. 1 for A-Bridge for deletion of a GPU for the refurbishment of the PBB in the amount of a \$51,085 DEDUCT and a new total contract amount of \$837,964 and CO No. 1 for Oshkosh AeroTech for the addition of a second GPU for the refurbished PBB in the amount of a \$49,279 ADD and a new total contract amount of \$1,352,764. Concurrence has been received from BOA.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Kilkeary, all three change orders were unanimously approved.

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. 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. A grant has been offered by FAA and accepted. The agreement has been executed with the supplier (Oshkosh). "We're looking at an 18-month delivery on that," Mr. Kunselman said. No responsive bids were received for the ARFF entry tools and general equipment. The engineer is proceeding with exploring purchasing the equipment through eligible Costars suppliers or rebidding for next grant season.

ATCT Improvements

This project consisted 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. Final inspection with FAA was held June 24, 2025, and all punch list items have been addressed.

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 proposed agreement has been sent out to the contractor (Bronder). A reconstruction meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

REQUISITIONS - Mr. Pickels reviewed the requisitions for July and August, 2025

LBE

Latrobe 69-24 Terminal Addition PH I (FAA PH II) Requisition No. 10, totaling \$846,814.91 (Allegheny Constr/A-Bridge)
Latrobe 70-24 (Terminal Addition PH II, III) Req. No. 11, totaling \$156,463.32 (HRANEC/A-1 Electric/Wheels/Allegheny)
Latrobe 71-24 (Remove/Reconstruct TW D CA) Requisition No. 11, totaling \$82,498.62 (MJ/A. Liberoni)
Latrobe 72-24 (Remove/Reconstruct TW E CA) Requisition No. 10, totaling \$819,408.95 (MJ/A. Liberoni)
Latrobe 73-24 (ATCT Improvements PH II CA) Requisition No. 12, totaling \$700.00 (MJ)
Latrobe 74-24 (Terminal Add & Improvements PH I) Req. No. 11, totaling \$120,080.72 (MJ)
Latrobe 76-25 (ARFF Vehicle & Equipment Procurement) Req. No. 1, totaling \$24,276.27 (MJ)
Latrobe WCIDC Requisition No. 19, totaling \$629,698.08 (A Bridge/MJ/A-1/Allegheny/HRANEC/Wheels)
Latrobe ESA-20240-1022-4615 Req. No. 1, totaling \$294,473.05 (MJ/WCAA/Dagastino)
Rostraver 33-25 Requisition No. 1, totaling \$59,804 (MJ/AWOS Design & Bid Advertisement payment)
Rostraver ESA-2024-1206-1108 Req. No. 2, totaling \$8,093.28 (equipment reimbursement)
Special Projects Account 7110075814 Requisition No. 266, totaling \$170,036.40

Upon the motion of Mr. Pologruto, seconded by Mr. Kilkeary, requisitions for July and August, 2025, were unanimously approved as presented.

Solicitor's Report - Amber Leechalk

Mrs. Leechalk reported that Kenneth Hebrank, an aircraft mechanic, was requesting permission to act as a limited maintenance FBO to conduct repairs on the field in private hangars, in what is termed a "shade tree mechanic" operation.

Upon the motion of Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, the request was unanimously denied.

Mrs. Leechalk also presented a request from Jodaron for a lease time extension to extend Jodaron's option to develop a new hangar, 150 feet in length by 300 feet in width, through April 30, 2027.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Pologruto, the motion for the lease time extension was approved with Mr. Kilkeary and Mr. Finoli abstaining.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Monzo reported that he has spoken to the new CEO of Southern Airlines, which flies 9-passenger aircraft on short trips, about starting service from LBE to PIT "when the parkway closes" for upgrades next year. "He acknowledged the idea and will get back to us," Mr. Monzo said.

Mr. Monzo also issued a reminder to FBOs, hangar tenants and all members of the WCAA community on the field that fueling is prohibited inside of hangars. He issued a letter citing NFPA Code 407, which specifically states that "aircraft fuel servicing shall be performed outdoors" and aircraft being fueled must be positioned no closer than 25 feet from airport buildings. "It is not a safe practice," Mr. Monzo said.

Mr. Monzo said he has talked with Boyd Group International CEO Mike Boyd several times since Spirit has filed for bankruptcy. "He is very happy that, though Spirit has eliminated 20 cities, we were not one of them," Mr. Monzo said. "That's a very good sign for Latrobe. If they make it, we're going to be with them." Boyd Group also told Mr. Monzo that he has been in touch with all of the other airlines that are providing ultra-low discount service and keeping our information current, including Allegiant, Avello, Frontier and Breeze...After the first round of reductions, we're still there, and I think that's a good sign."

Westmoreland County Airport Authority

Mr. Monzo also reported that he has talked with a company that could install parking canopies with solar panels on the roofs, which would provide multiple benefits. Further information will be provided to the property committee.

Mr. Monzo spoke with a company concerning collection of landing fees at LBE with anticipation of increasing revenues generated from transient landings that are currently being tabulated by airport staff. Mr. Monzo said he would conduct further research into the prospect. “We don’t see any downside to it,” he said.

Mr. Monzo reported that discussions are being held toward installing a helipad somewhere within the city of Pittsburgh. Mr. Kilkeary reported that currently none exist except for medical helicopter pads.

The gifted program students from several area schools will also be conducting a marketing study next year, in conjunction with St. Vincent College, Mr. Monzo reported.

Airport Manager Moe Haas reported that a “walkthrough drill” will be held at the airport on Sept. 16 and 17, 2025, involving PA National Guard and the U.S. Department of Defense. The drill will be held near the old runway, he said.

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Whittaker welcomed state Rep. Eric Davanzo of Pennsylvania’s 58th Legislative District to the meeting and thanked him for attending.

Mr. Whittaker also announced the formation of a committee to name the new terminal under construction at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport. The committee will include Mr. Pologruto as chairman, Mr. Beck, Mr. Gera and Mr. Whittaker.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the authority will be held **Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, at 9 a.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Dwayne Pickels, Grants Director