

**Westmoreland County Airport Authority
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
April 14, 2026**

Regular Meeting

The Regularly Scheduled March, 2026, meeting of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority was held at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 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 - Vice Chairman
Edward Kilkeary Sr. - Secretary
Brian Sokol - Treasurer
Mark Gera
Donald Rossi
Debbi Irwin
Dale "Lee" Landis
Edward Sobota

Also present were: Executive Director Gabe Monzo; attorney Amber Leechalk of Avolio Law, authority solicitor; Raena Lindemuth of McFarland-Johnson, authority engineers; Rich Cholodofsky, Tribune-Review; Abigail Hakas, Latrobe Bulletin; Airport Manager Moe Haas, Airport Asst. Manager Dylan Kovatch and Grants Director Dwayne Pickels. Also in attendance were pilot Valetta Mowry, Anthony DeNunzio of DeNunzio's Italian Chophouse and Mitch Dexter of Veregy.

An executive session was called to discuss legal matters at 9:01 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Public Comments - Mitch Dexter of Veregy made a presentation to the board for a modified solar panel project that is significantly reduced from previous proposals that focused on erecting panels in the airport's parking areas to an array of panels in a grassy hillside along Route 981 near the now defunct RW 3-21. "Carport canopies are a bit challenging, financially," Dexter said.

The project would cost an estimated \$4.4 million and could be funded with a bond issue and repaid through the sale of electricity generated by the array. "Ground mounts are very efficient...and this one generates 150% more efficient...Over the course of 20 years, with no revenue from anywhere else, this generates about \$1.6 million in positive revenue, with no input from anywhere else, for the first 20 years, then it's paid off and will continue to produce."

He added, "this system covers 95% of the electricity that the terminal currently uses. You have zero monetary obligation at this point."

Approval of Minutes

Upon the motion of Mr. Kilkeary, seconded by Mr. Finoli, minutes of the March 10, 2026, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport and Rostraver Treasurer's Reports -

Mr. Sokol reviewed treasurer reports for March, 2026 (attached).

Upon the motion by Mr. Whittaker, the March, 2026, treasurer's report for Arnold Palmer Regional Airport was unanimously approved.

Upon the motion of Mr. Finoli, seconded by Mr. Landis, the March, 2026, treasurer's report for Rostraver Airport was unanimously approved.

Rostraver Committee Report - Mr. Sokol said some general parking lot cleanup was completed "and it looks much more presentable...it really looks much better."

Property Committee Report - Mr. Gera had no report.

Engineer's Update Report - by Mrs. Lindemuth 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. Mrs. Lindemuth said construction began in April, 2025, and Taxiway E is substantially complete. Taxiway D is substantially complete except for final seeding in the spring. Surface markings will also be completed in the spring. Final inspection was held on Nov. 20, 2025.

Terminal Addition & Improvements/Apron Equipment Storage Building Design

The Terminal Addition project is to design and bid an addition and improvements for the terminal. Construction of the first phase began in October, 2024, and is still underway, slated for completion in June, 2026.

The engineer recommended approval of general contractor Allegheny Construction Group's change order No. 10A in the amount of \$81,465.00 addition for drilling and surveying monitoring wells required by DEP related to the removal of the underground storage tank from the old hangar demolition. Total revised contract amount is \$8,072,919.29.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Sobota, the change order was approved as presented.

Mrs. Lindemuth added that all four Phase II agreements have been executed. A pre-construction meeting was held Nov. 5, 2025, and may start in mid-June. The refurbished passenger boarding bridge will be returned when foundations are completed, which is anticipated in early May.

The Phase III bid package was advertised on March 30th, she said.

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 and the 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 and approved by FAA. The hood was delivered this week, Lindemuth reported.

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 been executed with the supplier (Oshkosh) and a reconstruction meeting was held on Oct. 9, 2025. No responsive bids were received for the ARFF equipment. The engineer has identified a potential vendor to purchase all equipment through Costars contract. Truck is in production.

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, it is

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proposed to move forward with modifications proposed by the Engineer with authority funds to improve security and safety, and seeking reimbursement of those costs when the larger project is funded.

ROSTRAVER AIRPORT:

Rehabilitate GA Taxiways

The project is to rehabilitate taxiway pavement near the T-hangars. A pre-design meeting was held in February with FAA and BOA. Bids for the project were advertised on March 30.

Promotions/PR/Events Committee report: Mr. Rossi had no report.

REQUISITIONS - Mr. Pickels reviewed the list of requisitions for April, 2026 (attached).

Upon the motion of Mr. Landis, seconded by Mr. Finoli, requisitions for April, 2026, were unanimously approved as presented.

Mr. Monzo noted that the first installment of terminal construction funding through the state Office of the Budget's Regional Assistance Capital Program (RACP) has been approved and is being distributed to the authority to be used for terminal construction.

"We got notification that the first payment is coming from RACP," he said. "We recently took out a \$2.9 million loan (to pay contractors in the terminal project) and I want to give accolades to Raena and Dwayne — they took that bull by the horns and it's still a process, and there's more to come, but the first \$1.2 million is on its way."

Mr. Pickels reported that the second reimbursement request has already been submitted.

Mrs. Lindemuth credited Steve Kerr of McFarland-Johnson for contributing the lion's share of effort in navigating the state grant program. "He makes me look good," she said.

Solicitor's Report - Amber Leechalk - Mrs. Leechalk report.

Mrs. Leechalk reported that a class action suit filed in 2023 has resulted in a complaint against all of the foam companies that produced PFAS foam used at airports around the country and offered a resolution to allow the authority to join in the complaint against the foam companies. "I don't know how long it's going to take to play out, probably quite some time, but this will start the process," she said.

Upon the motion of Mr. Landis, seconded by Mr. Sokol, authorization for the authority to join in the lawsuit was granted unanimously.

Mrs. Leechalk also reported that a hangar lease agreement with Rotortrade has been prepared and awaiting approval from the authority.

Upon the motion of Mr. Kilkeary, seconded by Mr. Sobota, the lease with Rotortrade was approved unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Monzo reported that officials from Veregy have made several presentations to the authority over the past several months and today presented a modified proposal to install solar panels at the airport. Mitch Dexter of Veregy reviewed a streamlined \$4 million option for the authority to consider that does not involve the airport's parking area or canopies, but rather an array of stand-alone panels that would generate significant power at no cost to the authority.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Finoli, approval for Veregy to move forward with plans for the solar panel project discussed earlier was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo noted that Mr. Sokol had reported that construction has begun at the new Dunkin' site near the Rostraver Airport. A July opening has been estimated.

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Mr. Monzo also reported that a proposal has been made to reduce the overnight cost from \$10 to \$4 per night and increase the size of Lot A to include the entire gated inner circle of the parking area.

“We still have free parking in all the surrounding lots, C, D and E, the free parking has not left, all we are doing is enhancing Lot A.”

Upon the motion of Mr. Finoli, seconded by Mr. Sokol, the parking change was unanimously approved.

Mr. Monzo reported that TSA Pre-Check registration will again be held at the airport on June 2 through June 5, 2026. A recent TSA audit here had no findings for non-compliance, he added.

“This is my last meeting,” Mr. Monzo announced, confirming his retirement on April 30, 2026. Monzo started working at the airport on Saturday, April 11, 1993.

“There’s no reason to be concerned, everything is going to go fine,” he said. “It’s been a hell of a ride.”

Chairman’s Report

Mr. Whittaker thanked Mr. Monzo “for all of his efforts and dedication” over the years.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Monzo recommend retaining Volaire Aviation Consulting for an additional six months at a cost of \$3,000 per month plus \$15,000 for preparation and submittal of a Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) grant to help secure additional air service at Arnold Palmer Regional.

Upon the motion of Mr. Gera, seconded by Mr. Sokol, the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Mr. Haas reported that on May 5 and 6, about 60 kids from local schools will be on the airfield from 10:30 to noon to see airport and emergency equipment.

Mr. Kovatch added that the airport’s Triennial drill will be held May 6 with some 150 volunteers to “test our capabilities.”

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the authority will be held **Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 9 a.m.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Dwayne Pickels, Grants Director