

**ERIE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
MEETING  
Wednesday, March 27, 2024**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Erie Regional Airport Authority duly posted and advertised, held in the second floor conference room of the Intermodal Center, 208 East Bayfront Parkway, Erie, PA 16507.

**Attendees:**

Daniel Giannelli	Derek Martin	Val Myers, Erie Times
Brian Slawin	Michelle Magee	Charlie Bayle, Erie County Council
Erin Kerner	Jennifer Gornall	Don Chase, Hangar 20
Eric Rogers	James Pacansky	Colin Russ
Ryan Bergquist	Ian Bogle	Jack Bendig, Hangar 20
Aaron Susmarski		Micah Goring
Dorothy Smith-Frazier		
David Hallman, Jr.		
Peter Burton		

Board President Daniel Giannelli opened the meeting at 12:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Giannelli asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Aaron Susmarski moved, and Peter Burton seconded. Approved by Yeas: David Hallman, Jr., Aaron Susmarski, Erin Kerner, Daniel Giannelli, Peter Burton, Eric Rogers, Brian Slawin, Dorothy Smith-Frazier, and Ryan Bergquist.

**Public Comments**

Jack Bendig distributed handouts pertaining to information he was given regarding reasonable accommodation and information/emails pertaining to his request for driving privileges. Mr. Bendig cautioned the group not to laugh when they read the email from Kim Scharrer that accompanied the reasonable accommodation/gate assistance process information. He pointed out that the process for gate assistance requests (reasonable accommodation) is a waste of time and resources.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from February 28, 2024, and February 27, 2024 were considered together. Erin Kerner moved to approve, and Dorothy Smith-Frazier seconded. Approved by Yeas: David Hallman, Jr., Aaron Susmarski, Erin Kerner, Daniel Giannelli, Peter Burton, Eric Rogers, Brian Slawin, Dorothy Smith-Frazier, and Ryan Bergquist.

**Announce Executive Sessions-** An Executive Session was held at 11:30 am today March 27, 2024, prior to this public meeting to receive privileged legal advice pertaining to a tenant lease agreement.

## **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee- Finance Committee Chair David Hallman, Jr. stated that the Finance Committee met on March 26, 2024. The cash forecast, February financials, bills to be paid, and expense reports were reviewed. Mr. Hallman stated that the Finance Committee recommends approval of the bills and made the motion to approve; seconded by Ryan Bergquist. Approved by Yeas: David Hallman, Jr., Aaron Susmarski, Erin Kerner, Daniel Giannelli, Peter Burton, Eric Rogers, Brian Slawin, Dorothy Smith-Frazier, and Ryan Bergquist.

Mr. Slawin stated that a review of the Harmonic survey results has been completed. There is a lot to take into consideration and prioritize. The PR committee will meet soon to discuss next steps.

There was no **Unfinished Business**.

## **Resolutions**

**Resolution 2024-01 Authorize Executive Director to Accept and Execute State Grant Offer** – Mr. Martin explained that this State grant request is for the State's 5% share for the reconstruction taxiway A (Phase VI) project. The work has been completed; this is for reimbursement.

Brian Slawin made a motion to approve and David Hallman, Jr. seconded. Approved by All: David Hallman, Jr., Aaron Susmarski, Erin Kerner, Daniel Giannelli, Peter Burton, Eric Rogers, Brian Slawin, Dorothy Smith-Frazier, and Ryan Bergquist.

There was no **New Business**.

## **Liaison Comments**

Charlie Bayle of Erie County Council said that the recent air service presentation was great. Erie County Council realizes what needs to be done to move ahead and they are supportive.

## **Board Member Comments**

Mr. Slawin invited the group to participate in a presentation at the Jefferson Society on May 17<sup>th</sup>- "What's Really Happening at the Airport".

Mr. Giannelli shared his experience at the Airports Roundtable Conference he recently attended in Savannah with Derek Martin. He added that it was great to see Derek in this type of environment. Derek is well known and well respected. Our consultant Ailevon Pacific highlighted a study they did pertaining to Erie residents with second homes in Florida. The conference included air service development people, airport directors, and eight airlines. All airports, big and small, are looking for air service.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Martin reported on the following:

- The information presented last month by Brad DiFiore of Ailevon Pacific was very important. We were happy to have board members, elected officials, and the

Chamber participate. Mr. Martin reiterated information about the state of the industry, legacy carriers, low cost carriers and ultra-low cost carriers.

- Because ERI is such a friendly airport, so far there are 50 private aircraft registered through the FBO North Coast Air to land here for the eclipse including a \$71 million Boeing business jet.
- Mr. Martin recently attended a legislative conference in Washington, D.C. where he met one on one with elected officials. Topics discussed included essential air service (EAS)/subsidizing airports.
- The information Mr. Bendig provided is not all correct. The number of airfield drivers is limited to those who have an operational need only. Mr. Martin added that there are insurance requirements for being able to drive a private vehicle on airport movement areas as well. Ms. Smith-Frazier asked for clarification regarding Mr. Bendig's comment about a waste of personnel/resources available for the reasonable accommodation plan with the gate. Mr. Martin confirmed that we have personnel here 24/7. Kim Scharrer is the ADA Coordinator for the airport and our plan has been accepted by the FAA. Mr. Slawin gave the example of wheelchairs made available by airlines for passengers needing assistance. Mr. Martin stated that we are required by the federal government to have a reasonable accommodation plan. Our plan was submitted to and accepted by the ADA regional office in Des Plaines, Illinois. Mr. Bendig stated in his complaint that he physically cannot open the gate. ERAA submitted video evidence to the contrary of Mr. Bendig opening the gate with one hand.

**Financial Report-** This report was inadvertently skipped during the Finance Committee Report earlier in the meeting. James Pacansky reported a deficit of \$115,249 for the month of February bringing our year to date deficit to \$176,438. We are favorable to budget \$39,402 revenue unfavorable to budget \$17,700 and expenses favorable \$57,102. Mr. Pacansky also shared that he works with a nationally respected financial consultant regularly named Dafang Wu. Mr. Wu has been very impressed with ERAA. Mr. Giannelli gave kudos to the staff.

Peter Burton made a motion to adjourn, and David Hallman, Jr. seconded. Approved by Yeas: David Hallman, Jr., Aaron Susmarski, Erin Kerner, Daniel Giannelli, Peter Burton, Eric Rogers, Brian Slawin, Dorothy Smith-Frazier, and Ryan Bergquist.

**Adjournment: 12:37 PM**

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Peter Burton, Secretary  
Ryan Bergquist,  
Treasurer

