ERIE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEETING Wednesday, July 27, 2022

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 Debbie Binney, Wilkens Rd

Sue Weber Michelle Magee Lou Aliota, Millcreek
Andrea Zdaniewski James Pacansky
Richard Wagner Ian Bogle Jennifer Gornall Terry Scutella, County Council

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David Hallman, Jr. Jack Bendig, Hangar 20 Marybeth Smialek Scott Swift

Brad Peganoff, Millcreek

Grayson Patterson, NCA
William Patterson, NCA
Ed Tropper, Aviation Flyers
Fred Veith, Hangar 20
Joe Ceresa, North Coast Air
Jon Whaley, self-taxpayer

Board President Daniel Giannelli opened the meeting at 12:01 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. Sue Weber made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Marybeth Smialek seconded. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., and Sue Weber.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Giannelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of last month's Board Meeting 6/22/2022 and Special Board Meeting 7/14/2022 together. Marybeth Smialek moved to approve, and Andrea Zdaniewski seconded.

Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, and David Hallman, Jr.

Abstained: Sue Weber (due to the fact she was not at the Special Board Meeting 7/14/2022)

Public Comments

Mr. Giannelli made the following statement prior to Public Comments:

Public Comments are an opportunity for members of the public to speak on the policies and business of the Authority. It is not an opportunity to defame any specific individual.

Mr. Giannelli reminded public speakers to give his/her name and limit comments to 5 minutes.

Lou Aliota of Millcreek Township reiterated his previous and numerous concerns regarding use of private emails by Board Members. He referenced five real estate transactions that he alleges are a violation of the law. Mr. Aliota spoke of the need for the Authority to follow the bylaws and have Board approved public policies. Mr. Aliota referenced the two pages of questions he submitted to the Board, County officials, and City Council. Mr. Aliota noted that the Attorney General has authority over all authorities. He cautioned the legality of certain issues.

Annette Mossburg of Wilkins Road stated that she would like an update on whether or not the lawsuit with the developer has been settled like she requested last month when she spoke. She said that she heard some people have reached out to the FAA to get them to change their position. This needs to cease. Ms. Mossburg stated that it is "public knowledge" that this deal was done improperly. She stated that the developer is asking for \$50,000 to settle and the neighborhood deserves to know that this will be settled. When no one responded to anything she said, Ms. Mossburg looked at the audience and said "and no one speaks! Let that be on the record!" Sue Weber stated that this is continuing litigation so she cannot comment; ERAA cannot comment. Ms. Mossburg said the developer will drop his lawsuit if ERAA releases the property or pays his fees. She doesn't understand why we just don't have our insurance company cover the fees and we can be done with his. Jennifer Gornall added that the \$50,000 Ms. Mossburg continues to reference is a minimum. The amount the developer has into it far exceeds \$50,000. Ms. Mossburg stated they are going to fight this. Ms. Mossburg made a threat to the Board stating if you don't settle this and he ends up building over there; there will be more lawsuits. She promised there would be lawsuits because this is not over for them. Ms. Weber explained, based on her many years of experience, that insurance companies handle settlements. You are not allowed to make your own settlement offers. Ms. Weber explained that it is not as simple as asking Ms. Gornall about settling. We wait to hear from the insurance company. Ms. Mossburg indicated she understood what Ms. Weber explained and thanked her for sharing. Ms. Mossburg asked the Board again to stop reaching out to the FAA asking them to change their position.

Debbie Binney of Wilkins Road addressed the Board. She understands that this is under litigation and wants to know why the residents are not part of the litigation. She stated that they have a lot of beneficial information. If the FAA changes it position and noise levels increase, then the airport's insurance will be affected. Ms. Binney threated to reach out to the airport's insurance carrier to tell them that they should no longer insure the airport. Ms. Binney stated that the sound from the railroad tracks and traffic on West 26th Street already affects the neighbors. The increase of cars with the proposed residential development would make it worse! This is all part of the next noise study! Someone signed an agreement ahead of time, ahead of any Board approval. Ms. Binney stated that she does not know how he (referring to Derek Martin) is still Executive Director after what he did!

Committee Reports:

<u>Finance Committee</u>-Finance Committee Chair Marybeth Smialek reported that the Committee met on July 26, 2022. The Committee reviewed the financial report, current Cash Forecast and AR Summary, Capital Fund Transactions, Bills to be Paid, and the Business Expense Reports with no concerns. We had a slight deficit in June but have a net surplus for the year still. We are favorable to budget. Load factors remain high.

Ms. Smialek stated the Finance Committee recommends approval of the bills and the Committee makes the motion to approve. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., and Sue Weber.

Financial Report- James Pacansky reviewed the June Finance Report. The net deficit for the month of June was \$36,857. Year to date, the net surplus is \$69,067. We are favorable to budget year to date \$95,299 with revenue unfavorable to budget \$122,895 and expenses favorable to budget \$191,962.

<u>Personnel Committee Meeting</u>- Mr. Giannelli stated that the Committee is in the process of gathering the Executive Director evaluation survey results and the information gathered from the interviews with executive staff.

<u>Ad-Hoc Public Relations/Marketing</u>- Jim Christiana from M:7 Agency introduced himself to the Board. He touched on the "robust" 6-month strategic plan as outlined in the contract.

There was no Unfinished Business.

Resolutions

Resolution 2022-16 Approval of Erie Aviation Three Year Extension- Mr. Martin explained that this is a three year extension to the current lease agreement with Erie Aviation.

Gregory Hayes moved, and David Hallman, Jr. seconded. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., and Sue Weber.

Resolution 2022-17 Approval of Schedule A- 2023 Rates and Charges- Mr. Martin explained that the last schedule was through 2022. This schedule is for the amendment to the Air Transport Operator's use and lease agreement being considered today. Mr. Pacansky explained that the rates are a 4% increase over last year's which is what we have always done.

Marybeth Smialek moved, and David Hallman, Jr. seconded. Approved by Yeas: Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., Sue Weber, and Marybeth Smialek.

Resolution 2022-18 Approval of Second Amendment to Air Transport Operator's Use and Lease Agreement- Mr. Martin stated that the resolution was prepared by Knox and extends the current agreement with American Airlines through 2023 reflecting the updated schedule of fees as just approved today.

Andrea Zdaniewski moved, and Sue Weber seconded. Approved by Yeas: Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., Sue Weber, and Marybeth Smialek.

Resolution 2022-19 Approval of Second Amendment to Air Transport Operator's Use and Lease Agreement- Mr. Martin explained that this is the same as Resolution 2022-18 but for United Airlines.

Marybeth Smialek moved, and Sue Weber seconded. Approved by Yeas: Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., Sue Weber, Marybeth Smialek, and Richard Wagner.

Resolution 2022-20 Amendment to Award of General Aviation Apron Rehabilitation Bid- Mr. Martin explained that Congressman Kelly's office secured community project grant money (earmarks) for this project. Kelly's office was told and communicated to us that this funding would not require a match meaning that this project would be 100% funded by the grant. During processing with the FAA, the FAA stated that there is a match for us of 10%. If we do not use the funds, the \$4 millions goes away. Mr. Martin explained that we would need to pay \$500,000 for our contribution. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Zdaniewski, we cannot use CARES funds, but we did prepay our own money for the rental car canopy project. We have approximately \$600,000 in our CFC account, \$5 million in the bank, and are owed about \$1 million from the FAA. Ms. Zdaniewski asked Mr. Pacansky if he supported the expense for the airport's share. Mr. Pacansky stated that this area of the airfield is the worst. He said that he is always nervous to spend the money especially with a big project with a match (Taxiway A) coming up next year, but if the money doesn't get used then we don't get it. Ms. Gornall added that we originally rejected alternate bid 1 because we didn't want to contribute any funds but now that we have the 10% match, doing alternate bid 1 makes most sense. In response to inquiries from Ms. Smialek and Mr. Giannelli, Mr. Martin said the project would be done in phases with the notice to proceed given August 15th and work to begin in September and the project supports general aviation.

David Hallman, Jr. moved, and Marybeth Smialek seconded. Approved by Yeas: Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., Sue Weber, Marybeth Smialek, Richard Wagner, and Daniel Giannelli.

Nays: Gregory Hayes

There was no **New Business**.

Liaison Comments

Erie County Council Liaison Terry Scutella said he would like to speak to the Wilkins Road residents at some point. He has seen the airport take several shots on this issue that maybe aren't fair.

There were no **Board Member Comments.**

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Martin reported the following:

- Our annual FAA Part 139 inspection was conducted July 11-13, 2022. The inspection went very well. We will be making some changes to the ACM as a result of the inspection.
- The Aviation Council of Pennsylvania reports Airport Landing Development Zone (ALDZ) is now law. ALDZ promotes and incentivizes economic development at airports on underutilized property by encouraging developers to work with airports. This includes all public use airports. This information has been shared with Tina Mengine.
- Michael Baker is assisting with statewide sessions to uncover the needs of airports.
- We have been working with local businesses on strategies to go after additional air service.
- We will be hosting the 2023 Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (NEC AAAE) annual conference. There is no out of pocket cost to the Authority. The conference will be held in August 2023 and is expected to bring 250-300 people to Erie.
- We were able to secure earmark funding for the general aviation ramp project because it is a public use area.

Andrea Zdaniewski made a motion to adjourn, and David Hallman, Jr. seconded. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, David Hallman, Jr., and Sue Weber.

Adjournment:	12:50 PM	
David Hallman,	Jr., Secretary	