

**ERIE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
MEETING  
Wednesday, May 25, 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      J.P. Jerecki  
Brian Slawin      Michelle Magee      Ellen Schauerman, County Council  
Andrea Zdanwieski      James Pacansky      Terry Scutella, County Council  
Richard Wagner      Ian Bogle      Jack Bendig, Hangar 20  
Gregory Hayes      Bill Patterson      Ed Tropper, Aviation Flyers  
David Hallman, Jr.      Timothy Wachter      Charles Bayle, County Council

**Participated By Phone:** Aaron Susmarski      Marybeth Smialek

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. Brian Slawin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and Andrea Zdaniewski seconded.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Giannelli asked for a motion to approve the minutes of last month's Board Meeting. Brian Slawin moved to approve, and Richard Wagner seconded.

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

**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.*

Jack Bendig of Hangar 20 stated that he has known some great people associated with the airport over the years including the Kudlaks, Derion, Apple, Conner, MacMillin. He also knew two good Airport Directors- Kelly Fredericks and George Doughty. Mr. Bendig stated that he would like to see paved areas on the Master Plan- Shenk Ave to 2/20 for General Aviation and room for Lifestar, the Coast Guard, and corporate hangars. He would also like a 24 hour self service station for fuel. Mr. Bendig shared that he was so surprised that Chief Bogle responded to his request about Gates 4 and 6 with a formal written reply. He wonders if Ian is even a Chief anymore. He also stated that he has

asked the Board to visit his hangar many times, but no one does. They are either too busy or don't care. Mr. Bendig complained about how dusty it is to drive on the road through Gate 6 to the hangar. He asked Mr. Slawin to come to the hangar to see just how dirty it is.

### **Committee Reports:**

Finance Committee- Finance Committee Chair Marybeth Smialek reported that the Committee met on May 24, 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 net surplus of \$7,305 for the month of April!

Ms. Smialek stated the Finance Committee recommends approval of the bills and made the motion to approve, and David Hallman, Jr. seconded. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Aaron Susmarski, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, Brian Slawin, and David Hallman, Jr.

**Financial Report**- James Pacansky reviewed the April Finance Report. The net surplus for the month of April was \$7,305. Year to date, the net deficit is \$23,617. We are favorable to budget year to date \$57,223 with revenue unfavorable to budget \$98,214 and expenses favorable to budget \$155,437.

Personnel Committee Meeting- Committee Chair Aaron Susmarski stated that the Committee will hold a meeting on June 9, 2022.

Ad-Hoc Public Relations/Marketing- Committee Chair Dan Giannelli reported that the next Committee meeting will be round 2. Round 1 was interviews with 5 firms; round 2 will be with the Committee's top two choices. Specifics including our budget will be reviewed during round 2.

There was no **Unfinished Business** and no **Resolutions**.

### **New Business**

#### Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)

Mr. Martin shared a request that came in from EAA and Fundamentals Flight Training regarding an event they would like to host with a Ford Tri-Motor in August of this year. Mr. Martin reminded the Board that event guidelines were approved by the Board in 2018 via resolution. The guidelines have been shared with EAA and Fundamentals Flight Training. They indicated they have no issues complying including reimbursing the Airport for all associated costs (i.e., security) and the insurance requirements. The event will be August 11-15, 2022. David Hallman, Jr. made a motion to approve the request for the Ford Tri-Motor event and Brian Slawin seconded. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Aaron Susmarski, Richard Wagner, Daniel Giannelli, Andrea Zdaniewski, Brian Slawin, and David Hallman, Jr.

Abstained: Gregory Hayes

### **Liaison Comments**

New County Council Liaison Terry Scutella introduced himself and stated he looks forward to working with the Airport Board.

### **Board Member Comments**

Mr. Hallman stated that the biggest threat to general aviation is not Derek Martin, but the price of fuel. The price per gallon at PHL is \$10.99; ERI is \$7.34 per gallon. This is a bargain! The price of fuel is going to wash a lot more people out of general aviation than perceived unfriendliness.

Mr. Wagner gave a hats off to the private general aviation pilots for their pride and responsibility. Mr. Wagner stated that he was not around when the Hangar 20 contract was executed. It seems now the Hangar 20 pilots are in an unworkable lease agreement. Why can't the Airport with no debt do something to help them get out of hangar ownership. Mr. Wagner said he is tired of hearing that we let them build the hangar but are making it difficult to use their hangar! Mr. Wagner said he can hear the struggle in the general aviation pilots' voices every time they speak. This situation is not working! Mr. Hayes and Mr. Wagner suggested a study session to discuss the issues. Mr. Wagner said he is not looking to give them something for nothing but wants to see if we can make fair accommodations. Mr. Bendig wants assistance with plowing and wants to be considered. For example, the FAA said they had to have a sign so they bought a sign. It should be lit but when the Airport ran lines in the area for something else, they wouldn't run them over enough so Hangar 220 could use the line to light the sign. They want to get rid of the hangar and just rent. He stated that Hangar 20 is not a business; they don't compete with anyone. They just want to enjoy life and hang out in their hangar. Mr. Wagner reminded that rules are rules and if you want a place to party then they should probably find somewhere other than the hangar. And private ownership verses airport ownership may come with different rules and regulations because of TSA overseeing the Airport's security. Mr. Martin reminded the group that the FAA dictates what we can and cannot do. Mr. Giannelli stated that we need to find out if it is just Jack's group that is unhappy or is it all of the hangar tenants of the Airport.

Ms. Zdaniewski stated that she did receive an extensive tour given by Mr. Fred Veith of your group when she joined the Board. Ms. Zdaniewski also stated that it is her understanding that this Board has already heard all of these complaints and concerns and that they have been vetted and responded to in accordance with legal advice, federal guidelines, and airport rules. If there is something new to consider, then it is reasonable for the Board to listen. We have made accommodations. We cannot just act on feelings. Ms. Zdaniewski asked if there are new concerns or are we re-addressing in an effort to look good for the public. Mr. Slawin asked that staff put all of the information regarding Hangar 20 together so we can start there.

Bill Patterson of North Coast Air reminded the group of minimum standards. All must be treated the same.

Mr. Giannelli announced that he, Mr. Martin, and Ms. Zdaniewski will be meeting with County Executive Brenton Davis on June 1, 2022.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Martin reported that our latest TSA Pre-Check enrollment event held May 2-6, 2022, was successful with 337 new enrollees. We will likely hold another one week enrollment event in November.

The Board previously approved the purchase of new parking equipment. This new system allows payments for parking to be collected 24/7 from a payment kiosk in the baggage claim area.

A Special Board Meeting will be held June 1, 2022, at Noon in the Administration Office of the Authority (Board Members can participate by Zoom) for the purpose of awarding bids for realignment and reconstruction of TW A- Phase I and general aviation apron rehabilitation.

Andrea Zdaniewski made a motion to adjourn, and Richard Wagner seconded. Approved by Yeas: Marybeth Smialek, Aaron Susmarski, Richard Wagner, Daniel Gianelli, Gregory Hayes, Andrea Zdaniewski, Brian Slawin, and David Hallman, Jr.

**Adjournment: 12:59 PM**

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David Hallman, Jr., Secretary