

# Butler County Airport Authority Board of Directors Meeting

## MINUTES

April 9, 2026

Directors attending: Andrew Allen, Mark Bicker, Justin Castello, Jim Harjer, Joyce Schnur, Mike Walsh

The regular business meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Joyce Schnur and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A motion to approve the March 12, 2026 minutes was made by Jim, seconded by Andy and passed unanimously.

Airport Manager Report: Stephanie Saracco, Airport Manager, reported 6018 flights operations in March, an increase year over year. Ongoing projects include the Civil Air Patrol lease, the Demolition Project asbestos removal beginning in May, and the information for the Federal Contract Tower's (FCT) virtual reality modeling provided to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Virtual Immersive Siting Tower Assessment (VISTA) Team. Stephanie expressed gratitude to Butler County Commissioner Kim Geyer for her collaboration on airport authority applications to Senator Fetterman and Senator McCormick for Congressionally-Directed Spending for the 2027 federal budget. The new airport website went live yesterday. Upcoming events at the airport include the Butler County Growth Collaborative's visit next Monday and the Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department's Tool Bash fundraiser in C1 on May 2.

Engineer Report: Nicholas Barber, McFarland Johnson, reported continued meetings with, and work for, the FAA on the Federal Contract Tower project. He also explained that the contractor wanted the May date for the demolition in consideration of their schedule. The Subdivision and Land Development approvals for the Maintenance Building project should conclude this Tuesday and the project will then be bid out. He warned that, in McFarland Johnson's ample and recent bidding experience, construction costs are coming in very high.

### Committee Reports:

1. The Business Operations Committee had nothing to report.
2. The Scholarship Committee had nothing to report.
3. Justin reported that the Finance Committee met and he signed an electrical generation contract with Green Climate Energy Consulting. He feels that the airport authority may be "cash heavy" with most grant reimbursements sitting in the money market account. The directors discussed his proposal that an alternate financial product with more aggressive interest yields with his employer be considered, as well as project timelines, and possible cash flow needs. Information will be gathered and the matter will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.
4. Jim reported everything is ready for the June FAA VISTA Team in person meeting here at BTP and explained the process, stating that "by the end of October, we can have FAA approval [of a tower site]."

Public Comment: NONE

Old and Unfinished Business: NONE

### New Business:

1. After discussion of possible additional restrictions and the current policy, a motion to table April agenda New Business Item A [concerning a required, reoccurring Automated Clearing House electronic funds transfer with Citizen's Bank to pay monthly Municipal Benefits Services invoices] was made by Andy, seconded by Mike and passed unanimously.

2. Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 857 (EAA) requested approval for Young Eagles events on June 13 and September 19. A motion to approve those two events was made by Jim, seconded by Andy and passed unanimously.
3. A motion to approve the expanded engagement letter with Maher Duessel to cover the Single Audit was made by Andy, seconded by Mark and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Report: Kim Geyer, Butler County Commissioner, reported that American Traditions bought the Powell Farm (located east of Penn Township's Harcrest Park). Development of that property may include running a waterline, perhaps in such a way that the airport authority could "piggy back" utility work for the FCT with it. Kim and Stephanie will be attending the American Association of Airport Executives' Contract Tower Association meeting in Washington, D.C. this July 16-17. Kim is also traveling soon to the Aerium Spring Summit for demonstrations of medical drones. A discussion on emerging aviation technologies ensued.

A motion to approve the February 2026 financial reports was made by Mark, seconded by Justin and passed unanimously.

Good and Welfare: Gratitude was expressed for Kim's address at the State of the County event and for the work on the new website.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim, seconded by Justin and passed unanimously.