

**WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 18, 2025**

The scheduled monthly meeting of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Joint Board of Control was held Thursday, December 18, 2025 in the Barry J. Centini Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. with Council Member Lee Ann McDermott presiding.

**PRESENT:** Council Member Lee Ann McDermott  
Commissioner Chris Chermak  
Commissioner Thom Welby  
Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
Council Member Greg Wolovich  
County Manager Romilda Crocamo (via phone)

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Stephen Mykulyn, Director of Engineering  
BJ Teichman, Assistant Director  
Chris Dalessandro, Director of Finance  
Michelle Aigeldinger, Director of Human Resources  
Attorney Don Frederickson, Lackawanna County Solicitor  
Attorney Harry Skene, Luzerne County Chief Solicitor  
Walter Griffith, Luzerne County Controller  
Thomas Sokola, Luzerne County Deputy Controller

**ABSENT:** Carl R. Beardsley, Jr., Executive Director  
Reggie Mariani, Consultant Controller, Lackawanna County

Lee Ann McDermott, Board Chair, requested to add an additional item to the agenda to add a motion to adopt the Benecon Health Care agreement for employee benefits.

Commissioner Gaughan asked what this agreement was for as this was the first time he was hearing about it. Airport Solicitor, Donald Frederickson, stated that starting January 1, 2026 the airport has to provide healthcare for the employees since they are no longer able to be on the county's insurance. Commissioner Welby asked if the benefits changed and was advised that the plan will be comparable to what was provided.

Commissioner Gaughan asked if, from a procedural standpoint, someone could explain how something can be added to the agenda 5 minutes before the meeting. He stated he cannot vote for something he did not read. Attorney Frederickson stated on November 24, 2025, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court stated "in Coleman v. Parkland School District that we are allowed to amend the agenda to add items to it as long as we take two (2) votes. One (1) to amend the agenda and then one (1) to vote on the item itself".

Commissioner Gaughan stated he understands the email information was just sent this morning, and he understands the situation, but he cannot vote on something that he was just handed and has not read. Attorney Frederickson stated if we cannot vote on it today, we will have to call a special meeting as it will need to be voted on before the end of the year or we are in violation of our union contracts.

Commissioner Thom Welby asked what the new cost would be? Commissioner Chris Chermak asked Chris Dalessandro, Director of Finance, what we would be paying per month as compared to what we paid last year. Chris Dalessandro stated that it is an estimated increase of about \$7,000 per month. Commissioner Welby asked if there is an incentive if employees opt out and was advised there is after one (1) year.

**MOTION:** To add the above-mentioned agreement to the agenda as 7B under contracts.

**MOVED BY:** Commissioner Chris Chermak

**SECONDED:** Council Member Greg Wolovich

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**ITEM 1**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*(Lee Ann McDermott, Chair)*

Walter Griffith, made the following statement to the Airports Board Members:

"So much for transparency folks." Mr. Griffith stated that 7, 10b of the Sunshine Act states that nothing can be added to agenda that costs the taxpayers money. Attorney Frederickson advised him to review the recent ruling that he mentioned from November 24, 2025 and that he is going to go with the Supreme Court ruling.

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This is his last meeting as controller and it has been his honor and pleasure to serve. He has concerns about the board and secret meetings they have regarding transparency. He asked why the Bi-County Board does not have the Partnership Agreement on the agenda since it was discussed at the Luzerne County's December 9, 2025 work session and he asked of Lackawanna was invited to that meeting. He stated that when there is an Executive Session it should be announced when they come out to the meeting. He feels bad for the new Commissioner and feels the bar for transparency needs to be raised.

Ms. McDermott advised Mr. Griffith that there was no Executive Session today and that everyone should update themselves on the new Sunshine Act ruling.

**ITEM 2**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2025 BOARD MEETING:**

*(Lee Ann McDermott, Chair)*

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025 Bi-County Airport Board Meeting minutes.  
**MOVED BY:** Council Member Greg Wolovich  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**ITEM 3**

**AIRPORT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(Chris Dalessandro, Director of Finance)*

**A. Financial Report:**

**(1) Revenue – Expense Report**

As noted on the attached profit/loss statements, for the month of November 2025, Airport Operations had an income totaling **\$161,229** compared to an income of **\$93,369** in November 2024 which is a difference of **\$67,860**.

Year to date, our profit is **\$2,312,630** as compared to a profit in 2024 of **\$238,633** a difference of **\$2,073,997**.

Invoices received since the last meeting for supplies and services totaling **\$892,929.22** are presented on the attached sheets for review and approval of the Board. These invoices include major construction project costs of **\$585,479.26**.

**(2) Project Invoices**

The following Airport Capital Project Invoices and Applications for Payment have been received since the last Board Meeting and are recommended for payment.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the above-mentioned transactions.  
**MOVED BY:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**ITEM 4**

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

*(Stephen Mykulyn, P.E., Director of Engineering)*

**A. Projects:**

**ACP 18-03**

**Taxiway B Extension (Runway 4 Approach End)**  
Design Services – McFarland-Johnson, Inc.  
Construction Phase Services – McFarland-Johnson, Inc.  
ATCT Access Road & Localizer Site Prep Contractor – JBS Dirt, Inc.

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Taxiway B Extension Site Preparation Contractor – Leeward Construction, Inc.  
Localizer Relocation Contractor – Joyce Electric, Inc.  
Taxiway B Extension Paving and Lighting - Leeward Construction, Inc.  
Construction Observation/Construction Administration Services – McFarland-Johnson, Inc.

On the Taxiway B Extension Site Preparation; Work on the project is substantially complete. Some minor punch list for the project remains to be completed in the Spring, including some final work on stormwater management facilities.

On the Localizer Relocation; no change in status, working with consultant on grant closeout.

On the Taxiway Paving and Lighting – Work on the project is substantially complete. Some punch list items on the project will remain to be completed in the Spring of next year, when weather is conducive again for potential paving repairs and topsoil and seeding work.

**ACP 20-04**

**GA Hangar (Emergency Medical Response Facility)**

Design Services - Borton-Lawson  
PEMB Procurement – Rise Construction  
General Construction – D & M Construction  
Construction Observation/Construction Administration Services – Borton-Lawson

We continue to work with the Consultant and the Contractors to complete the work on the Crane Beam in the Hangar Bay, in order to close out the contracts. Work also is progressing with final grant closeouts.

**ACP 22-01**

**Terminal Expansion – COVID Mitigation**

Design Services – McFarland-Johnson, Inc.  
General Construction – D & M Construction  
Mechanical Prime – Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling  
Electrical Prime – Joyce Electric, Inc.  
Plumbing Prime – Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling

The bids on the project were received and reviewed and award was approved at last month's meeting. We continue to coordinate with the consultant on the Construction Administration and Construction Observation contract scope and will be having an Independent Fee Estimate prepared and a fee negotiated in the coming months. We are also continuing to work with the consultant on cost associated with the furnishing contract for the building addition. In addition, we are working with the consultant on preparing cost breakdowns and grant applications associated with the project. A Notice of Funding Opportunity was issued by the FAA for another round of IIJA-ATP funding, and we are working on a grant application for that as well, to fund a portion of the work that would then free up currently scheduled funds for other projects.

**ACP 22-02**

**HVAC System Replacement – Joseph M. McDade Terminal Building**

Design Services – C&S Engineers  
General & Mechanical Prime – Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling  
Electrical Prime – Everon Electrical Contractors  
Construction Observation/Construction Administration Services – C&S Engineers

Work on the project is complete. We are working with the consultant and the FAA on contract and grant closeouts.

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**PERSONNEL:**

*(Michelle Aigeldinger, Director of Human Resources)*

**A. Salary Increase:**

1. Request the board approve a retroactive salary increase of \$4000.00 for BJ Teichman. Ms. Teichman completed her 6-month probation on August 24, 2025

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the above-mentioned increase.  
**MOVED BY:** Council Member Greg Wolovich  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**B. Appointments:**

1. Request the Airport Board appoint Jody Sibio, Dunmore, PA, to the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Shift Supervisor, effective January 1, 2026.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the appointment.  
**MOVED BY:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

2. Joseph Casey, Dupont, PA to the position of Maintenance 2, effective upon confirmation of airport clearances, which includes a physical.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the appointment.  
**MOVED BY:** Council Member Greg Wolovich  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

3. Request the Airport Board appoint Alexander Roper, Hughestown, PA to the position of Maintenance 2, effective upon confirmation of airport clearances, which includes a physical.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the appointment.  
**MOVED BY:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

4. Request the Airport Board appoint Carl Samony, Old Forge, PA to the position of Maintenance 2, effective upon confirmation of airport clearances, which includes a physical.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the appointment.  
**MOVED BY:** Commissioner Thom Welby  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**ITEM 6**

**AIR SERVICE REPORT:**

*(Beth Coslett, Air Service Development)*

**A. Passenger Activity:**

As noted on the attached "Airport Quick Look" charts, passenger enplanements for the month of November 2025 decreased 5.8% to 21,217 from 22,518 in the month of November 2024.

In November 2025, 18 departing flights were cancelled, 17 for weather/ATC; 1 for ground delay. This accounts for 1,145 (4.4%) out of

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a total of 26,123 departure seats. Also, 16 arriving flights were cancelled, all for weather/ATC.

**B. General Aviation Operations:**

For November 2025, General Aviation had 1380 operations (one take-off or one landing) which is an increase of 16.8% from November 2024, General Aviation Operations.

General Aviation revenues decreased \$28,335.38 or 242% to \$11,720.27.

**ITEM 7**

**CONTRACTS/AUTHORIZATIONS:**

*(BJ Teichman, Assistant Executive Director)*

**A. Air Tera:**

Recommend the Airport Board approve the Agreement between the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport and Air Tera, effective January 1, 2026. This is a 3-year contact, \$9,000.00 per year.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the agreement with Air Tera.  
**MOVED BY:** Council Member Greg Wolovich  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Bill Gaughan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**B. BCBS – Benecon:**

Recommend the Airport Board approve the Highmark Pre-Implementation Package between the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport and Benecon to provide employee benefits effective January 1, 2026.

**MOTION:** To accept and approve the agreement with Benecon (BCBS).  
**MOVED BY:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**SECONDED:** County Manager Romilda Crocamo  
**VOTE:** 5 yes, 1 opposed

**ITEM 8**

**OTHER MATTERS**

*(BJ Teichman, Assistant Executive Director)*

**A. Snowball Express – Dana Monahan, Marketing & Communications:**

On Saturday November 8, 2025, American Airlines, sponsor of the Gary Sinise Foundation's Snowball Express since 2006, along with their team members flew family members of our nation's fallen heroes from Dalton, PA, to Orlando FL for an all expenses paid 5-day trip to Disney World.

The foundation's mission is to honor, support and uplift the surviving parent/guardian and children of fallen Military and First Responders. Over 1,500 families were sent to Disney this year.

Lisa Hahn and Kerry Sorber, from American Airlines, came to talk about the program and how the community should reach out and take advantage of the benefits it provides.

**B. VIP Visit:**

President Donald J. Trump visited our area on Tuesday November 16, 2025. Everything went very well and we had C17's, V-22 Osprey helicopters as well as Marine One & Two on site.

**C. Acknowledgements:**

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BJ welcomed new Commissioner Thom Welby and introduced Bobby Grunza, Matt Gowat, Jodi Sibio, Operations, Bill Aruscavage, ARFF, Mark Bailer, Kristen Barone, Public Safety, Denise Frutchy and Nicole Bowling, Finance as well as the staff who presented today. She mentioned the Mutual Aid providers that assist the Airport as well.

Ricky Viruet was acknowledged with a certificate for five (5) years of service at the airport. Ricky and his team are instrumental in the safety and security with the internal and external areas of the airport as well as VIP events.

Appreciation was also extended to the LEO's for all they do at the TSA checkpoint.

A small parting gift was presented to Greg Wolovich for his term on the Airport Board and thanked the AVP team for all they do and it was a pleasure to see all the successes the airport had during his time here.

**ITEM 9**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*(Lee Ann McDermott, Chair)*

**MOTION:** Chair, Lee Ann McDermott made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
**MOVED BY:** Council Member Greg Wolovich  
**SECONDED:** Commissioner Chris Chermak  
**VOTE:** Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 A.M.