

**WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
BOARD MEETING
August 27, 2026**

The scheduled monthly meeting of the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport Joint Board of Managers was held Thursday, August 27, 2026 in the Barry J. Centini Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. with Commissioner Chris Belles presiding.

PRESENT: Council Member Chris Belles
Commissioner Bill Gaughan
Commissioner Thom Welby
County Manager Romilda Crocamo
Council Member Lee Ann McDermott
J. Christopher Munley, Esq.

ALSO, PRESENT: Stephen Mykulyn, Interim Director / 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 Rachael Finnigan, Luzerne County Asst. Solicitor
Tim McGinley, Luzerne County Controller
Kim Rose, Lackawanna County Deputy Controller

ABSENT: Attorney Harry Skene, Luzerne County Chief Solicitor
Thomas Sokola, Luzerne County Deputy Controller

ITEM 1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(Chris Belles, Vice Chair)

Romilda Crocamo, Luzerne County Manager, introduced Attorney Rachel Finnigan, Assistant Solicitor for Luzerne County, who is filling in for Attorney Harry Skene at today's meeting.

ITEM 2

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JULY 23, 2026 BOARD MEETING:

(Chris Belles, Vice Chair)

MOTION: To accept and approve the minutes of the July 23, 2026 Bi-County Airport Board Meeting minutes.
MOVED BY: Attorney Chris Munley
SECONDED: Council Member Lee Ann McDermott
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 July 2026, Airport Operations had an income totaling **\$252,035** compared to an income of **\$260,043** in July 2025 which is a difference of **\$(8,008)**.

Year to date, our profit is **\$1,218,960** as compared to a profit in 2025 of **\$1,099,230** a difference of **\$53,964**.

Invoices received since the last meeting for supplies and services totaling **\$333,701** are presented on the attached sheets for review and approval of the Board. These invoices include major construction project costs of **\$100,599.37**.

MOTION: To accept and approve the above-mentioned transactions.
MOVED BY: Attorney Chris Munley
SECONDED: County Manager Romilda Crocamo
VOTE: Unanimous.

ITEM 4

ENGINEERING REPORT

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

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A. 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.
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; Final Punchlist items have been completed and the Consultant is working with the Contractor on closeout documentation and final 'close-out' change order and final payment in preparation for grant closeout.

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

On the Taxiway Paving and Lighting – No change in status, work on the project is substantially complete. Work on some punchlist items has been completed and we are coordinating with the Contractor and the Consultant to schedule the remaining work and we are working on preparing the grant closeout.

B. 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

Work is complete, we are working to close out contracts.

C. 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 – Urban Electrical Contractors
Plumbing Prime – Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling

Pre-construction meetings were held yesterday with all Prime Contractors for the project. Submission and review of contract required bonding, certificates and other documents as well as shop drawings continues. Necessary security badging is being coordinated. Project schedules are being completed and reviewed along with safety and phasing plans. We anticipate Contractor Notice to Proceed to be issued in late September, Early October. The FAA Grant application for the IIJA-ATP funding has been fully executed and the FAA IIJA-AIG and PennDOT-BOA Capital Grant are under final review (and we expect offers shortly).

D. ACP 24-01

Rehabilitate Airline Apron

Design Services – McFarland-Johnson, Inc.

Site survey work is being completed and Design is expected to be completed and construction bid documents ready for bidding early in 2027.

ITEM 5

PERSONNEL:

(Michelle Aigeldinger, Director, Human Resources)

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A. Resignation:

1. Request the Airport Board approve the resignation of Alexander Roper, Hughestown PA, Maintenance 2, effective August 8, 2026.

MOTION: To accept the above-mentioned resignation.
MOVED BY: Council Member Lee Ann McDermott
SECONDED: County Manager Romilda Crocamo
VOTE: Unanimous.

B. Appointment:

1. Request the Airport Board approve the appointment of Andrew Bruzzano, Mayfield, PA, Maintenance 2, to be effective upon confirmation of physical and clearances.

MOTION: To accept the above-mentioned appointment.
MOVED BY: Commissioner Thom Welby
SECONDED: Council Member Lee Ann McDermott
VOTE: Unanimous.

C. Recognition:

1. AVP would like to recognize Michelle Aigeldinger, Pittston PA, for twenty (20) years of service.

D. Approval to Hire New Executive Director:

1. Motion to approve the hiring of the Executive Director conditioned upon negotiation of a final employment contract.

MOTION: To accept the above-mentioned approval.
MOVED BY: Council Member Chris Belles
SECONDED: Attorney Chris Munley
VOTE: Unanimous.

Chris Belles, Vice Chair, Luzerne County Council Member, made the following statement:

“Before we take this vote, I want to pause and recognize the significance of this moment—and the tremendous work that brought us here.

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport is a vital economic engine and gateway for Northeastern Pennsylvania, connecting our residents, businesses, and communities to opportunities across the country and beyond. Choosing its next leader is one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to this board.

I want to sincerely thank my fellow board members, our attorneys, and Beth Coslett for the extraordinary time, care, and hard work they devoted to finding the right person—the person we believe is the perfect fit to lead this airport forward.

I also want to offer special thanks to Attorney Chris Munley. Although Chris does not otherwise serve in government, he volunteered to join this board for a short period when we needed him. We truly benefited from the generous gift of his time, perspective, and expertise, and his service made a meaningful difference throughout this process.

Most importantly, I want to thank our airport staff. Leadership transitions create uncertainty, and this search required patience. Throughout it, our employees continued serving passengers, maintaining operations, and representing this airport with professionalism. We appreciate their patience as we worked to find them—and this entire region—the best possible leader.

The candidate before us today is Kim William “Bill” Hopper, A.A.E., an accomplished aviation executive with more than 40 years of airport leadership experience. Most recently, Bill served as Executive Director of the Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority. His

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career has also included leadership roles at Elmira-Corning Regional Airport, Pease International Airport, Binghamton Regional Airport, and the Omaha Airport Authority.

Bill brings extensive experience in airport operations, finance, capital development, air-service development, and board governance. He is also a United States Marine Corps veteran who served as an air traffic controller.

Just as importantly, Bill is known for a collaborative and visible leadership style, with a strong commitment to community engagement, employee development, fiscal responsibility, and strategic growth. As an Accredited Airport Executive, he has held numerous leadership positions within the American Association of Airport Executives. He currently serves on its Board of Examiners and continues to mentor aviation executives and aspiring leaders.

Bill has the experience, character, and vision to lead this airport into its next chapter. I am proud of the thoughtful process that brought us to this moment, and I look forward to casting my vote to authorize his hiring.”

Commissioner, Bill Gaughan made the following statement:

“I want to echo what Council Member Belles said and I am pleased to support this appointment and I want to welcome Mr. Hopper to NEPA. Throughout this whole process I have consistently said that a national search should result in one thing, the most qualified person for the job. After reviewing the candidates and participating in the interview process, I believe that Mr. Hopper clearly meets that standard.

He brings decades of aviation experience, more than 20 years of executive airport leadership, a degree in aviation management, and extensive knowledge with FAA regulations, a strong record in financial management, capital development, air service and more importantly community engagement.

Just as importantly, I was very impressed by his approach to leadership. He clearly understands after interviewing him, that an Executive Director works with the board, keeps the board informed, listens to employees, engages the community and develops a long-term strategy for the airport.

I believe that Bill Hopper is the person to lead this airport. I am proud to vote for him this morning, welcoming him to our region and look forward to working with him to take this airport to the next level.”

Commissioner, Thom Welby made the following statement:

“I want to thank all the people who applied for this position. We had some incredibly qualified people that stepped up to fill this roll if so chosen. That roll is managing the departments. It's the departments that run this airport which is incredibly run by an incredible team. That person who will lead that team also acts on behalf of the airport and the advantages you have flying out of AVP. Expanding on destination we have now and bringing in new airlines too. Choosing Mr. Hopper was unanimous after out interviews.”

County Manager, Romilda Crocamo made the following statement:

“I concur with the statements that were made. I am pleased that the process was fair and the two counties worked together as they should.

We welcome Mr. Hopper and we are committed to make sure that the services at this airport continue to be stellar and we will make sure that our staff is taken care of as well as they really are the foundation of what makes this airport great.”

Council Member Lee Ann McDermott made the following statement:

“I concur with all the comments made and thank all of the applicants as they were all very qualified and making this discission was very difficult but we all feel this was the best choice. We hope he fits in well and everyone works well with him. We appreciate all the staff in working with us.”

Chris Munley made the following statement:

“It has been an enlightening experience serving on this board. Flying in and out of this airport for the last 40 years, I have found that it works so well, is so clean and so professionally run. Taking a step back and seeing behind the curtain to see how it

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actually works, I am incredibly impressed with how well the board works and how hard they work, how challenging this was.

First thing they did, which I think was a brilliant move, was hire a national search organization that had unquestioned qualifications to go out and find candidates and provide the best of the list to the board for consideration. Once given that information, the board studied what we were given and had the opportunity to talk with everybody.

Mr. Hopper was by far the unanimous choice for this board. He has tremendous experience and qualifications and interviewed very well. I am convinced he will be able to take this airport to a higher level and has the support of this board. I think the pick was a great pick and I wanted to thank Commissioner Welby and Commissioner Chermak for putting me in this position I thank you Bill that you voted against me.

It has been a wonderful experience and want to thank every board member for being welcoming and inviting to someone who know nothing about this side of the business. Also thank the staff at the airport and I am comfortable knowing that this place is going to have great representation moving forward and to seeing Mr. Hopper here for many years to come.”

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 July 2026 increased 5.8% to 24,156 from 22,835 in the month of July 2025.

In May 2026, 10 departing flights were cancelled, 8 for weather/ATC and 2 for crew. This accounts for 556 seats (1.9%) out of a total of 29,360 departure seats. Also, 11 arriving flights were cancelled, 9 for weather/ATC and 2 for crew.

B. General Aviation Operations:

For May 2026, General Aviation had 1,300 operations (one take-off or one landing) which is a decrease of 8.2% from July 2025, General Aviation Operations.

General Aviation revenues decreased \$9,977.01 or 31% to \$21,868.08.

7. Contracts/Authorizations/Agreements

(Stephen Mykulyn, Interim Executive Director)

A. Fidelity Resolution

Request the Airport Board approve the resolution between Fidelity Bank and Wilkes-Barre / Scranton International Airport.

This instrument will provide funding to bridge the time between payments & reimbursement from the FAA & PDOT-BOA.

MOTION: To accept the above-mentioned resolution.
MOVED BY: County Manager Romilda Crocamo
SECONDED: Council Member Lee Ann McDermott
VOTE: Unanimous.

On the questions, Council Member Chris Belles asked if this is just for funds we know we are getting reimbursed for. Steve Mykulyn responded that it is just an instrument like we previously used to make payments prior to grant funding.

B. Bid Award: Replace Flight Information Display System (FIDS) Project:

In March the Airport was notified that our current host for Flight Information Displays (FIDS) would no longer be renewing existing service contracts and were no longer providing service. Our current service

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contract is due to end October 31, 2026 and as such, we would not be able to renew our contract with them.

After reviewing systems being used at other Airports, we held several meetings with another service provider, Infax, Inc., who provides host services for FIDS. Infax is a registered COSTARS Vendor, allowing us to deal directly with them for pricing. After determining what components from the existing system that could continue to be utilized, which consisted mainly of the wiring infrastructure and the display monitors, Airport Staff prepared a “bid package” to request pricing for the new system components, as well as a yearly service contract and hosting fee.

Infax, Inc. provided a fee proposal for \$86,768.00, including Hardware, Licensing, Configuration, Graphic Design, Training, Customization and the initial year of hosting & fees. Optional Installation is also included in this fee.

Support, Hosting & Flight Data Fees for subsequent years;

Year 2	\$28,697.40
Year 3	\$30,706.22
Year 4	\$32,855.65
Year 5	\$35,155.55

Recommend the Airport Board award the Replace Flight Information Display System (FIDS) Bid to Infax, Inc., pending final review, and solicitors’ concurrence, and authorize Airport Staff to execute a contract based on the attached bid proposal.

MOTION: To accept the above-mentioned award.
MOVED BY: County Manager Romilda Crocamo
SECONDED: Attorney Chris Munley
VOTE: Unanimous.

On the question Commissioner Thom Welby asked how this compares to previous years. Mr. Mykulyn responded that it is a substantial increase since the existing service provider is no longer in the market and there is less competition. This company was vetted, is well established and currently provides services in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

C. Metz – Vending:

Request the Airport Board approve the extension of the vending agreement between the Wilkes-Barre / Scranton International Airport and Metz Culinary Management, LLC. This will extend the agreement for two years from August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2028. All other terms and conditions of the original agreement remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

MOTION: To accept the above-mentioned extension.
MOVED BY: County Manager Romilda Crocamo
SECONDED: Commissioner Bill Gaughan
VOTE: Unanimous.

ITEM 8
OTHER MATTERS:
(BJ Teichman, Assistant Director)

A. Triennial Full-Scale Exercise:

Preparations are in process for the exercise that will be held on October 17, 2026. It is an extension of our annual burn event and is intended to simulate how AVP would handle, with mutual aid support, all the aspects of a downed aircraft should that happen.

Several planning meetings have already taken place by ARFF Supervisor as well as our Public Safety Department. On August 20, 2026 there was a briefing where more than 50 first responders attended the meeting.

Another preparation will take place on September 17, 2026 at the ARFF fire station.

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B. VIP SecDOT visit:

On August 25, 2026, AVP hosted Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy. We would like to thank Congressman Bresnahan for facilitating the invite to tour AVP and come to the Northeast to visit the Nanticoke Bridge Project.

Special attention was given to the MALSR as well as TRACON unit and a tower tour. He values what has been accomplish at AVP and is looking forward to additional growth.

ITEM 9

ADJOURNMENT:

(Chris Belles, Vice Chair)

MOTION:	To adjourn the meeting.
MOVED BY:	Council Member Lee Ann McDermott
SECONDED:	County Manager Romilda Crocamo
VOTE:	Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 A.M.