

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority

Friday, January 20, 2023

Pursuant to the notice duly given and posted, the regular board meeting of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority was called to order on Friday, January 20, 2023, in the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority Board Room located in the Syracuse Hancock International Airport by SRAA Board Chair Ms. Jo Anne Gagliano.

Members Present:

Ms. Jo Anne Gagliano – Chair
Dr. Shiu-Kai Chin
Ms. Latoya Allen
Mr. Tom Fernandez
Mr. Michael Frame
Mr. Kenneth Kinsey
Mr. Michael Lazar
Mr. Nick Paro
Mr. Nathaniel Stevens
Mr. Robert Simpson

Members Absent:

Dr. Donna DeSiato

Also Present

Mr. H. Jason Terreri
Ms. Robin Watkins
General Counsel R. John Clark
Ms. Joanne Clancy
Mr. Jason Mehl
Chief Werbeck
Captain Anthony Sobiech
Mr. Dan Zenk
Ms. Debi Marshall

Chair Gagliano started the SRAA Board meeting at 11:01 a.m.

Roll Call

As noted above all members were present, except Dr. Donna DeSiato.

Swearing in Ceremony – Chief Mark Werbeck and Captain Anthony Sobiech – Executive Director Terreri provided background regarding the SRAA being formed in 2014 and how when he arrived in 2019, he was tasked to create a true Airport Authority. This required changes to the SRAA Enabling Legislation in order to include establishing a police force. The Authority was very lucky to find a new Chief to lead this effort. Director Terreri introduced Chief Mark Werbeck and provided further background on the purpose and level of service that is envisioned for a police force at the SYR airport. Chief Werbeck has been working around the airport since 9/11 and therefore can bring an amazing level of expertise. Director Terreri stated that it has been decades since a new police force was established in the State of New York, so it took a lot of effort to complete this process successfully.

General Counsel R. John Clark conducted the swearing in ceremony for the new SRAA Police Chief for the new SRAA Police force that is scheduled to begin on March 6, 2023, and congratulated them on their new roles.

Chief Werbeck addressed the group and thanked the board and staff for all of the assistance that they provided him in navigating how to create this new police department. Twenty officers have been hired to date and all are well qualified professionals. Chief Werbeck then introduced Captain Anthony Sobiech and provided background information on him and swore him into service.

Mr. Simpson pointed out how important the partnership was with Assemblyman Magnarelli and Senator Mannion for bringing forth the legislation and helping us push this through. He would like to formally recognize both with a resolution of thanks to them from the SRAA board for making this police department a reality. All agreed.

Presentation of year end numbers and preview of SYR Annual Report

Director Terreri proceeded with the Regular Board meeting by beginning to discuss the SYR Annual Report. He thanked the staff for another great year and for all their hard work on this year's report creation. He highlighted both this past year and future accomplishments and thanked the SRAA board for continuing to move the airport goals forward. The SRAA ended 2022 within 2% of 2019 numbers which if all recall, was a three decade record and SYR is on track to exceed those numbers in 2023. With 39 non-stop daily departures that result in 260 connections, therefore growing the global reach, we can connect nearly anywhere in the world with a single stop. The Employee of the Year Award was voted on by SRAA staff this year in a new ballot box process. Kristine Carson, Human Resources was selected by her peers. Director Terreri congratulated Kristine on her teamwork and accomplishments.

After a brief pause to allow folks to leave the meeting after the ceremonies, Jo Anne Gagliano again welcomed Nathaniel Stevens to his first board meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Having no objections or comments regarding the consent agenda, a motion was made by Mr. Lazar and seconded by Mr. Simpson, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

Airport Scorecard

Director Terreri discussed the status of the end of the calendar year scorecard which is half of the year as the Fiscal Year is July 1st. Positive trends continue on the finance side with both operating revenue and expenses. Some of the lower expenses can be attributed to the light winter weather. Commercial Development CFC revenues have continued to outpace budget numbers which will assist with future parking needs. RPE numbers are down a little, which is a function of increased passenger numbers but not increased concession offerings. Concessions expansion options continue to be worked on so that the RPE does not level out. Landed weight numbers are going up through the end of the year along with passenger enplanement data forecasts. CFO Watkins stated that there is a higher number of enplanements than budgeted and that is a good story for the airport because that increases all revenues, parking, concessions, etc. Director Terreri complimented the Operations and Maintenance Teams for their hard work. CFO Watkins explained further revenues such as the Remain Over Night (RON) revenues from planes parking overnight. Expenses are slightly below budget due to timing and weather with ending the calendar year overall slightly ahead of budget. No further questions were asked.

New Business/Discussion

Chair Gagliano reminded the board that with Bill Fisher's departure from the board, the Vice Chair of the Board position is open. She encouraged board members to nominate themselves or others and explained the ballot process and the role of that position, the skill sets needed for that role and the critical needs in the coming year. The voting process will be held on March 10, 2023, at the Regular Meeting of the Board.

Director Terreri explained the 3-5 year growth plan at the airport including land development, integrating with the UAS industry and overall next steps that this role will need to help with these complex challenges with checkpoint and baggage expansions, and non-aeronautical parcels being developed. Knowledge of the funding process is a critical skill for this Vice Chair leadership role. Chair Gagliano stated in the absence of a Vice Chair, that she will lead the upcoming Governance Committee meeting, as the Chair of the Governance Committee is historically the Vice Chair of that Committee.

Chair Gagliano continued the agenda to discuss the single resolution on the agenda.

Resolution Approving Application and Acceptance of Funds for New York State Aviation Capital Grant Program Funds for Redesign of Deicing Pad(s)

Director Terreri explained the need for re-design of the deicing pads to allow for faster through-put. CFO Watkins stated it is a Capital Improvement Grant with New York State and this will allow some projects to move up earlier in the schedule, upgrade the drainage and increase the pad sizes. A conversation ensued regarding the Glycol recovery and recycling program. Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Lazar.

The resolution was adopted: 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain

Committee Reports

Chair Gagliano reminded the board that they have been given a schedule of SRAA Board and Committee meetings for the 2023 calendar year to hold these dates for attendance. She also advised the group of the names of the participants for each committee.

Director Terreri reminded the board that the State of the Airport will be held on Friday, January 27, 2023.

Mr. Frame inquired about NYAMA's involvement and analysis on CLCPA, NYS climate infrastructure, electrification piece, electric vehicles, etc. he would like to find out any impacts to the airport that the Finance Committee or board could understand and help with. Director Terreri stated that there are challenges to the electrification capacity levels coming into the airport and discussions are being held with National Grid regarding the infrastructure improvement process planning needed to bolster that electrification.

Fiduciary acknowledgment forms were provided and collected for board members. There were no other committee related reports provided.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Lazar and seconded by Mr. Simpson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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