



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Syracuse Regional Airport Authority**

**Thursday, September 21, 2023**

Pursuant to the notice duly given and posted, the regular board meeting of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority was called to order on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. 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  
Ms. Latoya Allen  
Dr. Shiu-Kai Chin (11:02 a.m.)  
Mr. Kenneth Kinsey  
Dr. Donna DeSiato  
Mr. Nick Paro  
Mr. Robert Simpson - Teams  
Mr. Michael Frame  
Mr. Michael Lazar

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Tom Fernandez  
Mr. Nathaniel Stevens

**Also Present:**

Mr. H. Jason Terreri  
Ms. Robin Watkins  
Ms. Joanne Clancy  
Mr. Jason Mehl  
Chief Werbeck  
Mr. Cliff Pelton  
Ms. Debi Marshall  
Mr. John Clark

Chair Gagliano started the SRAA Board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**Roll Call**

As noted above all members were present in person or via Teams other than Mr. Fernandez and Mr. Stevens.

**Consent Agenda:**

Chair Gagliano explained all items in the consent agenda which were all recommended by the SRAA committees previously. Having no objections or comments regarding this resolution, Chair Gagliano

invited a motion. A motion was made by Mr. Frame, seconded by Dr. DeSiato, and the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

**The resolution was adopted: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain**

### **Airport Scorecard**

Director Terreri shared information on the finance slides since the fiscal year kicked off in July. Both in terms of operating expenses and revenue, the airport is almost 4% above the mid-level forecasted budget which is due to the number of passengers and load factors which affect all transactions at the airport such as parking, car rentals and food/beverage sales. At the most recent Governance Committee meeting, the airport's legislative priorities were discussed, and the Hill East Group is engaged to assist SYR on these matters. The landside development is the most critical project, and the airport needs funding from the Federal and State governments. The CONRAC will be paid for through the Car Rental Facility Fees (CFCs), but the financing for these large landside projects is a critical need. Dr. DeSiato discussed the Micron impact and how many construction and transportation needs there will be locally with the same timing and where grants may be available to align with those projects as well. Civil service continues to be a legislative priority as a large percentage of the SRAA workforce is still provisional and not permanent in employment status. Dr. DeSiato stated that other organizations have also been working with the Governors office regarding this antiquated system and that this impacts all towns, villages, school districts in New York state as well as airports and that changes need to be made particularly in this tight labor market. Candidates are unwilling to join organizations provisionally, and current employees remaining in provisional statuses indefinitely, may leave for more secure employment opportunities.

Director Terreri informed the board of challenges regarding delays in permitting through the Codes dept. The timing and volume of work coming up in the future will be a challenge under the current system. Options were discussed regarding what other airports do under these circumstances and this will be a continuing conversation. Director Terreri discussed the land leasing process at the airport and discussions he has had with the mayor regarding assets that are funded federally here at the airport, and the subsequent transfer process of that asset to the City of Syracuse instead of it staying fully in control of the Airport Authority and the issues that the FAA auditors have with that process. A change to the Authority structure would need to be updated via legislation and legal opinions have been formed for action. A land exchange with the 174<sup>th</sup> ATKW was discussed for use by them for training purposes only, (no structures being built), and the airport also cannot build on that section due to proximity to the runway. The 174<sup>th</sup> ATKW has other land that would be useful to the airport for future growth expansion that they would transfer for this exchange, which is beneficial to both parties, with no cost to either party and helps in future airport development plans. Coordination with Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) continues with the NuAir offices now on-site at the airport. The Inter-agency Working Group (IWG) will bring the FAA and other government entities for a visit to SYR in October to learn more about integrating drones within commercial space both airside and landside. SYR has become a think-tank and is on the way to becoming an AAM Center of Excellence. This will support and align with everything happening in our community.

### **New Business/Discussion**

A discussion was held in detail during the Finance Committee meeting regarding financing large projects at the airport. These projects consist of grant monies with matching requirements by the airport, but they also must be completed first, reimbursement requests are submitted, and there are often long wait-times until reimbursements are sent. Therefore, the SRAA is researching options for having a line of credit in place with banks and investment companies to utilize that process under the legislative rules that can be implemented as needed for these short- and longer-term fluctuations awaiting reimbursement to minimize

impact to cash flow and have an additional safety net for these large future projects.

### **Resolution approving the Fiscal Year End 2023 Draft Audit of the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority**

Dr. DeSiato explained the clean finding audit results review the Audit Committee had and recommended to move forward the Board for vote. Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Mr. Frame and seconded by Mr. Paro.

**The resolution was adopted: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain**

The 2024 SRAA Board and Committee meetings calendar draft was reviewed for the board's consideration to see if there are any major known conflicts with the dates and noted that there will be a resolution vote on the final 2024 calendar at the December Board meeting. Director Terreri thanked the board and stressed the importance of participation and engagement of the full board for the critical decisions in the next year that will need to be made.

### **Executive Session**

Chair Gagliano invited a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Mr. Lazar made a motion and Mr. Paro seconded the motion. The Executive Session began at 11:37 a.m. and ended at 12:29 p.m. No action was taken.

### **Resolution authorizing collective bargaining agreement between SRAA and AFSCME Local 400A**

Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Dr. DeSiato and seconded by Mr. Lazar.

**The resolution was adopted: 9 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstain**

### **Committee Reports**

Chair Gagliano noted that Human Resource, Finance and Governance minutes were in the packet. Dr. DeSiato complimented the Employee newsletter. Ms. Marshall let the group know all the different things the SRAA DEI committee were working on.

### **Adjournment**

Having no other topics for discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Paro and seconded by Dr. Chin to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.