



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

**Friday, December 1, 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, December 1, 2023, at 11:01 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  
Mr. Tom Fernandez - Teams  
Ms. Latoya Allen  
Mr. Nathaniel Stevens  
Dr. Shiu-Kai Chin  
Mr. Nick Paro  
Mr. Robert Simpson  
Mr. Michael Frame  
Mr. Michael Lazar

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Kenneth Kinsey  
Dr. Donna DeSiato

**Also Present:**

Mr. H. Jason Terreri  
Ms. Robin Watkins  
Ms. Joanne Clancy  
Mr. Jason Mehl  
Chief Mark Werbeck  
Capt. Anthony Sobiech  
Mr. Cliff Pelton  
Ms. Debi Marshall  
Mr. John Clark  
Mr. Matt Szwebjka  
Ms. Linda Ryan

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

**Roll Call**

As noted above all members were present in person or via Teams other than Mr. Kinsey and Dr. DeSiato.

## **Executive Session**

Chair Gagliano invited a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history and job performance of a particular person. A motion was made by Mr. Lazar and seconded by Mr. Stevens. The Executive Session began at 11:03 a.m. and ended at 11:23 a.m. No action was taken.

Chair Gagliano thanked Mr. Nick Paro for his service on the board and wished him well in the future. Mr. Paro said he feels fortunate to have been a part of the board.

## **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. Lazar, seconded by Mr. Paro, 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 scorecard updates. He stated the record-setting passenger numbers that the SYR airport is seeing compared to other airports. SYR is beating every national category for small, medium and large hub airports for growth rates and is one of the fastest growing small hub airports in the country.

CFO Watkins explained how that activity translates into the budgeted finances and cash on hand. She noted that many of the expenses that are up are affected by timing of projects. Director Terreri said the enplanement numbers are up 4% over budget and SYR is trending 21% above 2019 record numbers and 12% over last year. Overall, from an air service perspective, this is very good news. Chief Commercial Officer Mehl briefed the board on parking, rental car and concession transaction activities. He stated that SYR is running out of concessions to serve our passengers and looking into opportunities for expansion. Car rental budget forecast vs. current actual revenues were discussed and questions were answered. Dr. Chin asked further questions regarding enplanement numbers and Director Terreri explained additional catchment area markets who have lost service are now coming to SYR. Mr. Stevens asked about TSA checkpoint wait times. Director Terreri stated that the current checkpoint capacity is 800 people per hour and at peak holiday times, SYR is seeing 1200-1400 people per hour through the checkpoint. The longest wait time was 48 minutes, which is impressive given the amount of people going through. A blended lane process has been worked out with TSA to help with these back logs. The sixth lane for the checkpoint should be installed soon to help lower the throughput wait times.

Director Terreri noted that Aaron Harris has been promoted to Chief Operations Officer, having been the Deputy Director for a while. Aaron has shown incredible leadership, has excellent staff and tenant relationships and has elevated the SRAA to a higher level. Aaron has been integral in the success of the airport and is now in the number two role to make all decisions necessary when the Executive Director is unavailable.

## **New Business/Discussion**

A discussion was held regarding the 2024 Board and committee schedule focusing on important dates

such as the SRAA Board retreat where there will be an in depth detailed discussion on planning and development as well as the June 28<sup>th</sup> final budgeting board meeting. Chair Gagliano noted that there is an opening in the Finance Committee and asked for volunteers to join that committee.

**Resolution to approve the 2024 SRAA Committee Meeting schedule**

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

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

**Resolution accepting managements recommendation to negotiate a project labor agreement for the 2023 terminal expansion and enhancements project**

Mr. Lazar asked a question regarding the procedure for when agreements need to come to the board. CFO Watkins clarified that this resolution would cover all of the union labor agreements and define rates as it relates to the terminal expansion projects. Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Mr. Frame and seconded by Mr. Lazar.

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

**Resolution to approve the formation of an operating subsidiary(s) to the SRAA**

Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Mr. Frame and seconded by Ms. Allen.

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

**Resolution Approving Acceptance of Funds from New York State Capital Grant Program for Redesign of Deicing Pads and Related Construction Work**

Having no further discussion regarding this resolution, a motion was made by Mr. Frame and seconded by Mr. Stevens.

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

**Committee Reports**

Chair Gagliano asked if any of the committees had information to add and Ms. Clancy noted that Human Resource, Finance and Audit minutes were in the packet for review.

**Adjournment**

Chair Gagliano again recognized Mr. Paro for his two-year rotating term participation on the board and thanked him for his insights and service to the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority. Mr. Damian Ulatowski, Town of Clay, will be joining the board in January for a two-year term. Mr. Paro thanked everyone for this learning opportunity and stated that what the board and leadership are doing is fantastic and the future of the airport is bright.

Mr. Frame wanted to recognize and thank the airport for the community outreach given to the students

recently from Fowler High School. Ms. Marshall wanted to recognize several SRAA staff members for their assistance with the students, Bret Cullen, Matt Szwebjka, Chief Werbeck, Aaron Harris and Kristine Carson in particular. This is the second time the SRAA has hosted the Syracuse City School district for a tour of this type, and we love to partner with them and look forward to more opportunities in the future.

Having no other topics for discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by outgoing Board member, Mr. Paro, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

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