

Commissioners:

R. JACK MCKERNAN
Chairman

TONY R. MUSSARE
Vice Chairman

RICHARD MIRABITO
Secretary



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**Minutes of the Meeting of
October 4, 2016
Board Room, Executive Plaza
Pine Street, Williamsport**

Commissioner McKernan - Present
Commissioner Mussare - Present
Commissioner Mirabito - Present

Solicitor Smith - Present

1.0 OPERATIONS

1.1 CONVENE COMMISSIONERS MEETING. The meeting was convened at 10:03 a.m.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS

2.1 APPROVE CASH REQUIREMENTS REPORT. A motion by Mr. Mirabito and seconded by Mr. Mussare and passed (3-0), approved accounts payable cash requirement report through October 12, 2016, for payment on October 5, 2016.

Tom Hart, Executive Director of the Williamsport Regional Airport gave a power point presentation on the reasons a new airport terminal building is necessary.

Mr. Mirabito asked if a feasibility study was done.

Mr. Hart said there was one done and it was provided to the board of commissioners in 2013. He will make sure the current board gets a copy.

Mr. Mirabito commented that the economic situation has changed since 2013. He wants to know what the public wants. He suggested that perhaps this project should be put on hold for a few years. He has several concerns, one with the catchment area, and also that the project is not even started and is already \$1 million over budget. If there should be additional over runs, the county is the only entity that can bail the airport out.

Frank Pelligrino, Williamsport Municipal Airport Authority, detailed the reasons for the necessity for doing the terminal project now.

Mr. Hart expanded on the funding of Act 13 monies... this is from Marcellus Shale and is for impact due to that. This project is a perfect example of what these funds are meant for.

Mr. Mussare said that the county needs economic development. A new terminal building will drive this. We cannot stagnate. The cost of doing county business should be funded by the county taxpayers. Act 13 should be used for impacts to the county not for county operating costs. That would be a mistake.

Mr. Pelligrino said this is an essential air service community. But the airlines, flights, and craft may not be conducive to development.

Vince Matteo said that the airport is important for development and retention of businesses. He wants and needs the airport to be successful. The chamber supports this.

Mr. Mussare said that the \$16 million project for \$3 million county investment is important for the economic future. "This is an easy decision."

Mr. McKernan asked for clarification on the jetways.

Mr. Hart said the new plans will have the infrastructure in place for it for future expansion. Regional jets can still be serviced without them.

Julie McManus from World Travel based at the airport talked about the reasons a new terminal is necessary. Also, the flights out of Williamsport are no longer always more expensive than those flights from surrounding airports.

Mark Murawski, Planning Department explained that if this project and grants are turned down, that could affect other areas with regarding to grants, not just future grants for this project.

Jodi McDermott of Williamsport, whose background is in travel, commented on the need for the airport and how it is necessary to lure physicians to the area as well as economic growth.

Mr. McKernan said that spreading the Act 13 monies over county parcels for four years would come to \$9.43/parcel/year if it is divided up. Instead this money could be used to attract new industry and support current industry while giving working people opportunities to more easily travel at a better cost. He is interested in public comment. October 20 will be the vote on this.

6.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. The floor was opened to public comment and the following were received:

William Reisner, former member of the airport authority explained that he listened carefully to all that was said. He feels it is the wrong idea to stop the project. If you don't do it now, it will never happen down the road.

Adam Welteroth, Williamsport, said that if it works the way it is pitched (airport project), it would be great. He wanted to know if any businesses support this project. Also, is there a contingency plan in place if unforeseen expenses occur?

Mr. Pelligrino said yes there are businesses backing it. The \$16 million has contingency built into it.

Erin Eiser Paige asked how the jobs will be sourced, from locals?

Mr. Pelligrino said that it will be put out to bid and state and federal prevailing wages will be used.

Mr. Hart said local contractors will be used depending on bidding.

7.0 NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. Mr. McKernan announced the next regularly scheduled meeting to be held Thursday, October 6, 2016.

8.0 ADJOURN COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.