



**ROCKY MOUNT – WILSON REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

MR. GARRY HODGES, CHAIRMAN  
MR. JOHNSON BISSETTE  
MR. DAN HERRING  
MR. JAMES JOHNSON  
MR. CHARLES MULLEN  
MR. CARL WARREN  
MR. MICHAEL WETHERINGTON

**EX OFFICIO & STAFF PRESENT**

MR. JOSH PUSSER, AIRPORT DIRECTOR  
MR. DAKOTA SUGGS, AIRPORT MANAGER  
MS. JESSICA DEAVER  
MS. CARRIE VOIGT

**GUESTS**

MR. BOB LEAGUE  
MR. JASON KENNEDY, ARDURRA



## **CALL TO ORDER**

The October 2025 meeting of the Rocky Mount - Wilson Regional Airport was called to order by Chairman Garry Hodges at 12:00 p.m. Chairman Hodges recognized Jessica Deaver for arranging the lunch and Jessica Deaver and Dakota Suggs for preparing the meeting room for the board.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Hodges welcomed Mr. Bob League and Jason Kennedy representing Ardurra.

## **INVOCATION**

Mr. Garry Hodges led the invocation.

## **PLEDGE**

Mr. Carl Warren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the September board meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and read by the board members. Chairman Hodges called for any questions and corrections, there were none. A motion was made to approve the September 2025 minutes by Mr. Carl Warren and seconded by Mr. Charles Mullen. All board members in attendance unanimously approved the September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT - JASON KENNEDY, ARDURRA**

### **1. Corporate Hangar #8 (Construction)**

Since our last meeting, the Airport and Jason's team have continued communication with JD Beam. The contractor accepted the Notice of Award on October 2, 2025. An introductory meeting is scheduled for the morning of November 5, 2025, to allow both teams to meet and review JD Beam's proposed project schedule.

The goal is to have an executed contract by early December 2025, once the Department of Aviation grant funds are open. Garry inquired about the estimated groundbreaking date, and Jason noted that this information will be clarified during the November 5 meeting. Beam may wish to begin preliminary site work immediately, depending on material lead times, but could also propose waiting until spring for site work. Their proposed timeline will be presented for the Board's review at the next meeting.

### **2. Underground Fuel Farm Closure and Above Ground Fuel Farm Improvements**

We were waiting on a few remaining pieces of equipment to arrive, but the crew is onsite this week completing final improvements. Work is expected to be finished by the end of the week.



Final improvements include additional lighting, safety signage, installation of additional inspection ports on the 20,000-gallon tank and equipment that will allow fuel levels in each tank to be monitored remotely. Once complete, the project will be closed out, and final payments and grant reimbursements will be processed.

### **3. Terminal Plan Update - Hangar Development Area Schematic Design**

This project includes the schematic design of approximately 11 acres owned by Nash County. Last month, the Board approved the work authorization for Ardurra to begin. Ardurra has submitted to the Department of Aviation for review and approval. The DoA will open the associated grant to allow the project to proceed, which is expected to occur in early December.

Last week, Chairman Hodges met with former County Commissioner Robby Davis to discuss the 11-acre parcel, as well as an additional 4–5 acres owned by Nash County that has been allocated to the Airport for future use. Garry proposed combining the additional acreage with the original 11-acre parcel, and Mr. Davis agreed that doing so made sense. Garry also spoke with Wayne Outlaw and scheduled a follow-up meeting to discuss the matter in more detail.

Further conversations with Susan Phelps and Andy Hagy from Economic Development were positive, and they have given approval to approach Nash County about transferring the land. The intent is to combine the 11-acre parcel with the additional 4–5 acres and present the entire package to the County for transfer.

The Board discussed the importance of pursuing this opportunity now while the County appears receptive to moving forward.

There is currently a company interested in pursuing a land lease and constructing a hangar on this site, making it important to finalize the land transfer as soon as possible to facilitate development. Jason added that if needed, his team could adjust their timeline to begin preliminary work before December 1, noting they have some flexibility within their internal processes.

### **4. Taxiway Safety Area Analysis and Design (Work Authorization #3)**

The Airport recently received an inquiry from a user regarding wingtip clearance within the Taxiway Safety Area (TSA) at the north end of Taxiway A. Ardurra completed a preliminary analysis following last month's discussion and has since explored alternative approaches to address the issue. The initial proposal was a comprehensive, large-scale solution; however, further research has identified options to scale the project down. Additional investigation has focused on the location of the sewer force main in the area.

Garry noted that Charles Mullen contacted engineers from the Town of Sharpsburg, who confirmed Ardurra's findings regarding the force main's location. The line currently sits above the grade of Taxiway A and would need to be lowered if the taxiway is extended. In Garry's



recent conversation with Robby Davis, Mr. Davis indicated that future industrial park development could make the project eligible for grant funding to support relocation of the sewer line. Josh will continue coordinating with the Town of Sharpsburg as discussions on the potential relocation move forward.

Josh added that when the runway was previously extended, the force main was struck and approximately 100 feet of pipe had to be replaced at a cost of about \$1,200. He noted that this suggests the work may be less costly than initially expected and expressed optimism that coordination between Charles and the Town of Sharpsburg could help cover a substantial portion of the expense.

The Board held a general discussion regarding potential hangar development on the land to be acquired from Nash County.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT - Mr. Josh Pusser**

### **FY2025 Audit**

Josh provided an update on the FY25 audit. Following last month's direction from the Board, he contacted Martin & Starnes, who confirmed they could take on the audit; however, it would be delayed and come at a higher than expected cost. Josh then introduced a letter of engagement from a new proposed auditor, Danna Layne of Nunn, Brashear & Uzzell, who comes highly recommended.

Ms. Layne's approach emphasizes training and collaboration, as she plans to work with staff throughout the year rather than waiting until year end to identify issues. She currently conducts audits for 21 municipalities, and this area is her specialty. Johnson Bisette commended Josh for identifying an auditor who appears to be an excellent fit, noting that finding reliable audit support has been a recurring challenge in the past. Mr. Johnson Bisette makes a motion to approve auditor Danna Layne of Nunn, Brashear & Uzzell for a three year engagement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Mullen and the motion carries unanimously.

### **Sewer Line Potential Relocation**

Returning to the discussion of the sewer force main, Josh noted that progress on this issue will likely be gradual. He estimates the pipe will need to be lowered approximately 30 to 35 feet once the berm is reduced. In response to a question about the single customer affected by the berm's current configuration, Josh shared that he has been in contact with them and advised an alternate operating pattern to avoid the area. Josh and Dakota will continue coordinating with the FAA to determine next steps until the berm issue is fully resolved. Additional discussion followed regarding the history and location of the berm.



### **Part 139 Compliance Update**

Josh reported confidence in the Airport's corrective actions following the recent Part 139 inspection, noting that only a few minor administrative items remain open. Although a new inspector visited this summer, the previous inspector has since resumed oversight and expressed satisfaction with the Airport's progress. He is scheduled to return in November. Josh also confirmed that the Airport now has an EMT under agreement and another employee currently pursuing EMT certification.

### **Fuel Farm Construction**

Josh reiterated his optimism regarding the impending close out of the Fuel Farm project, as covered earlier in the meeting by Jason. The new auditor has recommended implementing a monthly fuel inventory, which the upgraded fuel farm will help support. The on site crew is expected to complete all remaining work by the end of the week, after which administrative closeout and reimbursement processing will begin.

### **Fire Restoration Update**

In response to Garry's inquiry about restoration bids following the recent fire, Josh confirmed that cleanup, including asbestos removal, is complete. Servpro submitted a bid for restoration, Josh thought it seemed very expensive. A new bid from Advanced Roofing was received late last night and appears lower than Servpro's. Josh and Dakota have solicited bids from additional companies, but no others have been received to date. Unless a more competitive bid is submitted, Josh plans to recommend proceeding with Advanced Roofing for the restoration work.

James asked how similar incidents could be prevented in the future. Josh explained that the insurance adjuster determined the fire likely resulted from a faulty golf cart charger. Going forward, all golf carts will be charged away from the building, though some equipment will still need to be charged in place. Garry asked about the ice machine and refrigerator, and Josh confirmed both will be replaced.

The Board discussed additional fire prevention measures, including Garry's suggestion to install a monitored electronic smoke detection system in the designated charging area. Johnson recommended an alarm system with smoke detectors, and Michael suggested a system that would automatically notify emergency services.

## **FBO / OPERATION REPORT - Mr. Dakota Suggs**

**September Fuel Sales** - 26,686 Gallons Total: 19,172 Gallons Jet Fuel & 7,515 Gallons Avgas

18,701 Gallons Jet Full Service, 471 Gallons Jet Self Serve & 3,231 Avgas Full Service, 4,283 Gallons Avgas Self Serve



Dakota anticipates a decrease in Avgas sales as corporate jet traffic slows into the new year.

He devoted significant time to bringing the ARFF training program up to standard, which has now been approved by the FAA inspector.

As part of the annual requirement for ARFF live burn training, the team plans to participate with another fire department or airport group. A new facility in Charlotte offers the program at no cost.

Later this week, on Thursday or Friday around lunchtime, a fleet of Blackhawks is expected to arrive, with between three and nine helicopters anticipated.

Demolition work has been completed, and bids for rebuilding are under review. In response to Garry's inquiry, Dakota confirmed that the repair cost is approximately \$200,000, with remediation at about \$75,000. The full amount has been covered by insurance.

Dakota also noted completion of several smaller projects over the past month, including replacement of stickers on the fuel trucks and replacement of fuel filters on the fuel farm trucks, which are typically changed annually.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT - Mr. Carl Warren**

Carl noted several categories exceeded projected amounts on this month's report. Josh explained the CPA had aggregated certain line items and said he will conduct a thorough review to ensure everything is categorized correctly. Otherwise, revenue and expenses for the month look good.

Josh noted payroll is slightly higher due to an additional lawn maintenance team member during the latter part of the summer, but overall payroll was budgeted \$100,000 less than last year. In response to a question about insurance reimbursement for damage to the main terminal building, Josh stated that insurance will reimburse contractors directly.

A motion was made to approve the September 2025 Financial Report by Mr. Charles Mullen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dan Herring and carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The board adjourned at 12:58 p.m., there being no further business to come before the board, the meeting of the Rocky Mount - Wilson Regional Airport Authority was adjourned.



Respectfully Submitted:

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Dan Herring, Secretary