

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
GREATER ROCKFORD AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Rockford Airport Authority was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, in the Greater Rockford Airport Authority Auditorium, 60 Airport Drive, Rockford, IL.

Chairman Schablaske called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Commissioners & Legal Counsel	Present	GRAA Staff	Present	Guests/Other Staff
Pat Agnew	X	Zack Oakley	X	
Al Caruana		Michelle Cassaro	X	
Jake Castanza	X	Michael Peranich	X	
Paul R. Cicero	X	Tracey Halbrader	X	
Dianne Parvin	X	Kathy Bruggeman	X	
Mike Schablaske	X	Chip Geiger	X	
Leslie West	X			
Tom Lester	X			

A motion was made by Commissioner Agnew, seconded by Commissioner Parvin, and was unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Commissioners on December 18, 2025. A motion was made by Commissioner Agnew, seconded by Commissioner Parvin, and was unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the Planning & Finance Committee Meeting on January 15, 2026.

STAFF REPORTS:

Michelle Cassaro – Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, reported the following:

- The IT contract and the noise abatement contract are in review. The last noise abatement study was in 2012.
- Tracey and all staff are working on their department budgets as well as the capital budget. The balanced budget will be presented to the Board in February.

Michael Peranich, Director of Operations and Maintenance Manager, reported the following:

- Presented the facts and figures on the snow melter use this snow season. We had 19.2” of snowfall the end of November and beginning of December. 20,842 gallons of diesel fuel was used with 80 hours of burner time on the machine. The hourly cost is significantly lower as opposed to trucking the snow.

Zachary D. Oakley, Executive Director, reported the following:

- The first Apple Vacations flight is tomorrow. The bookings are going well. We have increased marketing for ticket sales. We are ahead of bookings from 2025.
- Our first flight to Fort Lauderdale begins in February. They are having a fare sale through February. It is on the schedule through August at this time. We are hopeful for a good performance so it may become a year-round flight.
- On February 2, parking lot F will be open for travelers as an option in case Lot A and B are full. This will be used for valet parking also.
- We fell just short of beating our all-time cargo record. Overall, it was a very good year.
- 311,000 passengers used RFD in 2025. Our best year ever. We will be sending a press release on both cargo and passenger figures.
- Air Cargo consultants are changing to Gateway solutions as the primary contractor with Ken Ryan and Andre Morrall as subcontractors. They will be present at the February PFC meeting.
- We will be visiting Liege Airport in January (our partner airport). A joint announcement was sent out last month.
- The control tower continues to move forward. There will be a stakeholder meeting next month. It is now getting down to the final plans with the cab finished but the rest of the office layout still needs to be determined.
- Master Plan – the first data collection with CMT is set. Late February to late March will have a meeting with UPS and Amazon to discuss their plans to incorporate into our plan moving forward.
- We have conducted interview for a Terminal Manager. We interviewed three qualified candidates. A choice will be made early next month.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Commissioner Castanza made a motion to approve **Resolution #26-01** approving a Contract in the amount of \$4,520,900.91 to Sjostrom and Sons Inc., of Rockford IL, for the aircraft pavement modifications of Taxiway A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Agnew and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Castanza made a motion to approve **Resolution #26-02** approving a Contract for the leasing of 503.6 acres of GRAA owned farmland, to Ackerman Farms, of Winnebago, IL. Revenue from 42.4 acres of hay crops is \$100 per acre, for row crops is \$275 per acre. The increase in revenue from this bid will equate to \$55,867.50 per year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Agnew and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Castanza made a motion to approve **Resolution #26-03** approving additional purchases of winter chemicals (Sodium Formate and Urea) for an increase of \$111,568 to the chemical budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner West and unanimously approved.



Commissioner Castanza made a motion to approve **Resolution #26-04** approving a Purchase Order in the amount of \$83,620 in total to Dickey Masonry, of Chicago IL, for repairs to 39 Airport Drive. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Castanza and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Castanza made a motion to approve **Resolution #26-05** approving disposal in the best manner possible: Truck #25 – 95 Oshkosh P series truck with spreader and plow, and Vehicle #81- 2006 Volvo BL70 backhoe. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Agnew and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Castanza made a motion to approve **Resolution #26-06** approving a Cargo Representation Agreement with Gateway Sales and Solutions, of Oviedo, FL for \$200,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parvin and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Castanza motioned to enter into Executive Session, pursuant to Section 5 ILCS 120/2(d) (5) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Agnew, and a roll call vote indicated seven ayes and zero nays. Executive Session was entered.

Commissioner West motioned to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 5 ILCS 120/2(d) (5) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. Commissioner Agnew seconded the motion, and a roll call vote indicated six ayes and zero nays. Executive session was entered.

There being no further business, Commissioner Castanza motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner West and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 pm.