

MINUTES OF AIRPORT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY – APRIL 28, 2025
FORT SMITH REGIONAL AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM

A special meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Pendergrass, presiding. Commissioners Barr, Cooper, Hawkins, Kelly, Ridgley and Voris were present. Also present were Co-Interim Airport Directors Lindsay Conley and Andrew Meyer, Kelly Johnson, and Lt. Col. Riley Donoho.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. PV Solar Panel Project Proposal – Lt. Col. Riley Donoho, 188th Civil Engineer Squadron Commander for the Arkansas Air National Guard (ANG), requested the airport to serve as the contractor for a PV Solar Panel project through a funding agreement with the ANG, similar to the arrangement for ongoing ARFF Station Expansion project. The PV Solar Panel project aims to reduce utility bills and enhance storage for the mission and communications building, and will provide redundancy for the FMS mission. The ANG is unable to execute this project as the funds were received too late and must be executed by September 30, 2025. The Corps of Engineers is also unable to take on the project due to their current workload. The ARFF station expansion project is progressing well under the Military Construction Cooperative Agreement (MCCA) with the airport. Unlike the ANG, the airport is not bound by the same rules and does not need to have a construction contract in place by September 30. The project re-design will be 100% completed by June 6. The plan is to execute a construction contract with the airport, complete it through an MCCA, complete the 100% design by June 6, coordinate MCCA approval through the National Guard Bureau (NGB), have the airport sign the MCCA when ready, receive funding from the NGB for construction, have the airport manage the contract with the NGB coordinating as the user, as is currently being done with the ARFF Station Expansion. Lt. Col. Donoho affirmed that the MCCA accommodates cost overrun, and modifications to the MCCA are possible. The project has been coordinated with the Air Force to ensure it won't negatively affect FMS mission plans. A glare study was conducted, and an airspace 7460 study will be submitted at least 45 days before the project starts. Commissioner Hawkins asked for confirmation that the runway will not be shut down due to this project, and Lt. Col. Donoho affirmed, stating the project is confined to the ANG main ramp.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the airport contracting the PV Solar Panel Project through a funding agreement with the Air National Guard. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hawkins, Kelly, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. There was no further discussion.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission will be Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Ridgley and second by Commissioner Hawkins, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Hawkins, Kelly, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting Nay: none. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lindsay Conley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lindsay Conley
Co-Interim Airport Director