

MINUTES OF AIRPORT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 15, 2025
FORT SMITH REGIONAL AIRPORT CONFERENCE ROOM

The special meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Voris, presiding. Commissioners Barr, Cooper, Pendergrass and Ridgley were present. Also present were Lindsay Conley, Co-Interim Director, Andrew Meyer, Co-Interim Director, Col. Riley Donoho, 188th Wing A Staff Engineer, and Ben Marts, City of Fort Smith Interim Director of Engineering. Commissioners Hagy and Kelly were absent.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Main Drainage Ditch Repair MCCA Agreement – Col. Donoho reported that the Air National Guard had been working with the City of Fort Smith and Garver on a comprehensive drainage plan. Increased flooding on the base, caused by additional pavement from the FMS Mission projects, led to the determination that the main drainage ditch requires repair due to erosion. The Guard requested the Airport to serve as the contractor for the project, with funding provided through an MCCA Agreement. The project includes installation of a new concrete box culvert between the pavilion and the new road connection, and stabilization of the remaining ditch using mechanically stabilized earth walls. Design is scheduled to begin September 30, 2025, with construction planned for April 2027. Legal review confirmed the agreement must be executed with the Airport Commission, not the City of Fort Smith, as the land is airport-owned. The MCCA agreement includes Design funding of \$870,810 (includes \$188,640 for airport contract administration) and Construction funding of \$6,696,720 (includes \$188,640 for airport project supervision). The airport's attorney has reviewed the agreement. Chairman Voris asked about potential liability for the airport. Col. Donoho responded that the primary risk would be construction change orders, but noted that the MCCA agreement allows for modifications, which would mitigate that risk.

Commissioner Pendergrass made a motion to authorize the airport to act as contractor for the Main Drainage Ditch Repair project, to approve the Main Drainage Ditch Repair MCCA agreement, and to authorize the co-interim airport director to sign the agreement on behalf of the commission. Commissioner Barr seconded the motion. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

2. Executive Session – Chairman Voris said the commission needed to move to Executive Session to discuss Airport Director recruitment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pendergrass and seconded by Commissioner Cooper to adjourn into Executive Session at 2:25pm. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

A motion to reconvene the regular meeting at 2:55pm was made by Commissioner Barr and seconded by Commissioner Pendergrass. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

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3. Post-Executive Session – Chairman Voris reported that during the executive session, the commissioners discussed continuing negotiations with ADK regarding the Airport Director search. He requested a motion authorizing him to proceed with discussions with ADK on behalf of the commission. Commissioner Pendergrass made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Barr. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Chairman Voris stated that the contract for the airport consultant, Kelly Johnson, was expiring this month. Commissioner Pendergrass volunteered to initiate discussions with Mrs. Johnson regarding a possible contract extension.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Fort Smith Airport Commission will be Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Pendergrass and second by Commissioner Barr, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m. Voting aye: Barr, Cooper, Pendergrass, Ridgley and Voris. Voting nay: none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lindsay Conley
Co-Interim Airport Director