
Regular Board Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2026 - 5:00 PM - Airport Conference Room

In attendance were board members, participants and guests as listed on the attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Locke called meeting to order at 5:02 PM; a quorum was confirmed as per the attached sign-in sheet.
2. **Invocation:** Ross Statham
3. **Review of Agenda:** Approved as submitted with one addition by Statham, who asked for an item "e" (airport shirts) under old business. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Election of Fiscal Year 2027 Officers:** Ross Statham moved and Dell Corbin seconded that we re-elect the current slate of officers for the next fiscal year. These are Herbert "Jack" Locke, Chairman; Roy Brooks, Vice-Chairman; Tommy Leuenberger, Treasurer; Danny Exum, Grants Coordinator; and Ross Statham, Secretary. (These make up the Executive Committee). The motion carried unanimously.
5. **Review and approval of Finance Committee Minutes:** None.
6. **Review and Comment of Vision 2028 Committee Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Locke reported that while there was no meeting of the Vision 2028 Committee the previous week, he and Lee Lewis at AVCON met with Florida Commerce regarding a grant request as discussed in the previous meeting. Locke indicated that our timing was probably too late for this year, but that we are now on their radar to help in the future in this regard. No action needed by the Board.
7. **Consent Agenda** items were, as previously determined by procedure, approved as submitted:
 - a. Last month's regular meeting minutes
 - b. Treasurer's full report – See attached report
 - c. Grant Activity Report – See attached report
8. **Audience wishing to speak:** None.
9. **AVCON Report:** AVCON Vice-President Lee Lewis led the discussion based upon the enclosed written report, and items were discussed as per the report. There were three action items by the Board:
 - a. **Task Order 5:** Approval of accepting a bid which had a minor irregularity. This irregularity was immediately corrected by the vendor when it was brought to their attention. Brooks moved and Leuenberger seconded that we waive the minor irregularity and accept the bid; motion carried unanimously. This awards a construction contract to Southeast Construction Company in the amount of \$259,017.50.
 - b. **Task Order 8:** Brooks moved and Corbin seconded that we approve Resolution 26-03 giving Chairman Locke permission to sign the Grant Agreement regarding the General Aviation Apron Rehabilitation.
10. **Airport Manager Report (enclosed):** Accepted with routine discussion.
11. **Community Outreach Report:** None.
12. **Airport Profit Report:** See the enclosed report from Board Treasurer Tommy Leuenberger.
13. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Audit Firm Bids:** As decided in last month's meeting, we have elected to continue with our previous Auditor. Statham moved and Corbin seconded that we give Chairman Locke and/or Treasurer Leuenberger permission to sign the Engagement Letter. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **New air ambulance tenant:** Statham enquired of Locke regarding the projected new air ambulance tenant projected to begin operations on or before January 1, 2027. Locke reported that everything appears to be fully on track.
- c. **“Dead” former US Navy S2 aircraft on field:** Last month the Board asked Statham to reach out to the owner of the old, unflyable former US Navy airplane that is sitting on the tie-down ramp and notify him that it needs to be removed before January 1, 2027. Statham reported that he has contacted the owner, who has given us an email release for anyone who would like to take the airplane free of charge, to include scrap (which Statham forwarded to the Chairman). Brooks indicated that he has a strong potential lead on someone who may be willing to scrap the aircraft if provided to him free of charge; Statham volunteered to put the owner in touch with Brooks.
- d. **Jackson County Seat Vacancies:** Statham reported that we will be submitting Dianna Gainey to the Jackson County Board of Commissions to fill Leonard Shores’ now vacant Airport Board seat. He briefly introduced Ms. Gainey to the Board. Tommy Leuenberger reported that we will also be submitting Peter “Sonny” Fortunato to fill Edward Crutchfield’s now vacant seat and that Mr. Fortunato was recently elected to the Jackson County Board. Statham (Secretary) will update the Board Roster after their appointments.
- e. **Airport Board Member Shirts:** Statham moved that since the existing Board members have airport-logo shirts that we give all new board members a similar shirt upon appointment. Brooks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

14. **New Business:**

- a. **None.**

Adjourn: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM.

These minutes were compiled by Ross Statham, Secretary, and when subsequently approved by the Board of Directors (during the next meeting of the Board) and when signed by the Secretary, shall constitute a true record to be included with the official legal records.



Ross E. Statham, Secretary