

**CHICAGO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025
1020 SOUTH PLANT ROAD
WHEELING, IL 60090
6:00 PM**

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chairman Kearns called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call confirmed the following present: Directors Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, Lang, and Saewert. Absent: Chairman Harris.

Also in Attendance: Jeffrey Miller – Executive Director
 George Sakas – Director of Economic Development &
 Administrative Services
 Jason Griffith – Director of Finance
 Andrew Wolanik - Director of Operations & Maintenance
 Carmina Esguerra – Administrative Coordinator
 Tom Lester– Attorney
 Charlie Rickerson – Administrative Intern
 Logan Leber – Administrative Intern

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Kearns led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Director Hellyer and seconded by Director Saewert to approve the minutes from May 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved by voice vote. Ayes: Directors Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, Lang, and Saewert. Nays: None.

IV. Changes to Agenda

None.

V. Public Comments

Jim McLennan, a 60-year airport tenant, acquired Hangar 13 from the Priester's group 22 years ago and has consistently paid ground lease and taxes in a timely matter. In April, he was reassured that the motel demolition nearby would not affect his hangar, but in May he

received an unexpected lease termination notice in which he appealed the letter. In June, he was hit with a harsh letter requiring a response by the end of the month or it would be withdrawn. During demolition, the motel-supplied water was shut off, leaving his facilities without water, although the water service is covered in his original lease. McLennan has escalated the issue to Executive Director Jeff Miller, who has scheduled a meeting for this Friday. McLennan wanted to express to the board that he is feeling unfairly treated after decades of tenancy but is hopeful that a situation will come from it.

VI. Presentations

A. Airport Spotlight on Sam Lasky.

Vice Chairman Kearns presented Sam Lasky with the Airport Spotlight for the month of May. He was given a Certificate of Recognition and a Challenge Coin for his contribution and commitment to Chicago Executive Airport. (*Vice Chairman Kearns' statement is included at the end of this document*).

Sam Lasky expressed his sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for naming him the Airport Spotlight honoree. He offered special thanks to Executive Director Miller, Director of Operations Andrew Wolanik, and the entire airport staff, acknowledging them as exceptional personnel and a privileged to work with.

VII. Hearings & Reports

A. Director of Finance

Director of Finance Jason Griffith explains that due to the conversion of Sage to Yardi May financials are delayed. He reported that April's financials was the last month of the airport's fiscal year 2025. All revenues and expenses on a straight-line method has met been met at 100%. Operating revenues are at 104.08% and operating expenses are 87.8%.

B. Executive Director

Jeffrey Miller reported on the following:

- ➔ Operations for May 2025 were 9,254, 1% above May 2024. The previous 12-month ops were up slightly at 98,761, 18% above our average month of May since 2015.

- ✈ Total fuel flowage for May 2025 was 640,885, 10% below May 2024. The previous 12-month fuel flowage was down slightly to 8,037,621, 24% above our average month of May since 2015.
- ✈ 42 Custom clearances in May 2025. 6 fewer than May 2024. The previous 12-month Customs clearances dropped by 6 to 525. We have had above 500 clearances since September 2022. 7 clearances below the average of May since 2015.
- ✈ The number of noise comments totaled 26 for the month of May 2025. There were 2.8 comments per 1000 flight operations. 15 of those comments from Prospect Heights came from 2 households.
- ✈ Residential Sound Insulation Program Update
 - 12th Edition Newsletter distributed to residents withing the potential eligible contour.

Phase 2

- All prime and storm doors received – minimal shipping damage are not to affect the installation schedule.
 - The first delivery of windows and patio doors was received 6/16/25.
 - Inventory conducted on 6/16/25.
 - Residents will be notified of their start dates when inventory is verified.
 - Pre-construction walkthroughs will be on Fridays before each project starts.
 - Tentative pre-construction meeting planned for Friday, 6/27/25.
 - The weekly construction meetings are planned to start Thursday, 7/10/25.
- ✈ Construction Projects:
 - Northeast Quadrant New Tie Down Area project underway and on schedule.
 - East Quad Apron Expansion Project: Concrete is curing, estimated opening of ramp is July 1st.
 - MWRD Sewer Lining Project: Starting 6/28. Utilizing runway closures on 6/28, Taxiway Lima work near Atlantic. Approximately 3 months to complete.

- Taxiway Echo/Hotspot Mitigation: Letter received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources stating no objections to the plan.
- Sky Harbour Project: They will be presenting at the Prospect Heights Planning and Zoning Board for a lot line change. The Airport pinged the FAA about the property acquisition.
- Runway 6/24 Closure: Full environmental assessment was submitted 2/4/25, our 90-day check-in is 5/27/25 – the state has not reviewed the EA yet but stated that they will start reviewing soon.
- ➔ Other Projects:
 - At the request of the Village of Wheeling, the Airport petitioned to correct the zoning on the northwest quadrant from Residential and Business to Airport Zoning. The Planning Commission recommended approval to the Village Board.
- ➔ Federal Affairs Update
 - Senate bill has many changes that will now set up a showdown with the House
- ➔ State Affairs Update
 - The State budget did not include appropriation for the new building at PWK, the Airport plans to reassess the request into the fall session.
- ➔ Public Affairs Update

June 28th, 2025

- Run the Runway
 - 838 Participations (618 5K, 145 Walk, 71 Kids Dash, 4 Virtual)
 - \$28,150 in Sponsor Revenue (26 Total Sponsors)
 - 2 VIPs in attendance (Congressman Schneider and State Rep. Katz Muhl)
 - The TODAY Show reached out on 6/12 about a feature on our event and the receiving organizations.
 - We have donation from: Boboas Oats, LMNT, and PowerCrunch Bars
 - Monster Energy will be on site distributing products from their truck

- Kids Activities, Queen Elsa and Spiderman will be at the morning event
 - 100 Year Photo
 - 9:30 am to 10 am
 - Free Shirt and Exclusive Gift for Participation
 - Touch-a-Plane Event with State Representative Tracy Katz Muhl & Wair
 - 11 am to 1 pm
 - The Lucky Duck Food Truck – providing lunches for CEA staff/board and State Representative Staff
- ➔ Upcoming Meeting and Events
- Thursday, June 26th Annual GWA Chamber Golf Outing
 - Saturday, June 28th Run & Rock the Runway
 - Friday, July 4th Independence Day (Office will be closed)
 - Wednesday, July 16th Regular Board of Directors Meeting

C. Board Members' Comments

None.

D. Correspondence and Chairman's Comments

None.

VIII. New Business

A. Resolution 25-022 – A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Claims

A motion to approve was made by Director Berman and seconded by Director Saewert. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes: Director Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, Lang, Saewert, and Berman. Nays: None.

B. Resolution 25-023 – A Resolution to Approving the 2025 NBAA BACE Annual Conference Attendance and Participation Policy for Chicago Executive Airport

A motion to approve was made by Director Kiefer and seconded by Director Saewert. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes: Director Lang, Saewert, Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, and Kiefer. Nays: None.

C. Resolution 25-024 – A Resolution Approving a Public Relations Professional Services

Agreement with Highstake 35, LLC dba Mercury Public Affairs

A motion to approve was made by Director Berman and seconded by Director Lang. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes: Director Kiefer, Lang, Saewert, Berman, Hellyer, and Kearns. Nays: None.

D. Resolution 25-025 – A Resolution Approving a Land Lease with the FAA for the Air Traffic Control Tower

A motion to approve was made by Director Hellyer and seconded by Director Saewert. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes: Director Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, Lang, and Saewert. Nays: None.

IX. Executive Session – Pursuant to ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to discuss the leasing property owned by CEA and 120/29 (c)(11) to discuss pending or threatened litigation.

At 6:25 pm a motion was made to move into Executive Session by Director Berman and seconded by Director Hellyer. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes: Director Saewert, Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, and Lang. Nays: None.

X. Action Taken from Executive Session

No Action Taken.

The Board reconvened to open session at 7:13 pm. The motion was approved by Director Kiefer and seconded by Director Berman. The motion was approved by voice vote. Ayes: Director Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, Lang, and Saewert. Nays: None.

XI. Adjournment

At 7:17 pm a motion was made by Director Saewert and seconded by Director Hellyer to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote. Ayes: Director Berman, Hellyer, Kearns, Kiefer, Lang, Saewert. Nays: None.

Respectfully submitted:



Steve Berman

Secretary

Sam Lasky: Upward and onward from PWK to O'Hare

"It will be hard leaving the PWK because I have loved working here," says Sam Lasky, Air Traffic Manager, Chicago Executive Airport (PWK). "The team here is phenomenal and I truly believe they are among the best in the country."

Lasky, who has worked in the Chicago Executive Airport tower for a combined four years, will be saying goodbye to his 16 air traffic teammates and other airport friends at the end of June. The FAA has tapped him to oversee an even bigger role as Air Traffic Manager at O'Hare International Airport. There, he will manage an air traffic control team of approximately 100 and an estimated 2,400 flights per day.

"I've been lucky," he explains.

Luck aside, Lasky has been training for this big role since he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps as a young man living in Northwest Indiana. Unsure which area he would pursue as a Marine, a high score on a standard aptitude test showed that he had what it takes for air traffic control training. He agreed and went on to complete the Naval Air Traffic Control Academy program in Pensacola, FL and then was stationed in Beaufort, SC. He served there five years with his high school sweetheart who became his wife, Gia, by his side.

Following that, he was deployed to Afghanistan where he served his country as a Marine Mobile Team Leader for one year. He remembers that time fondly and refers to the 'peaks and valleys' that come along with serving in war time.

Following his international service, Lasky remained an active Marine until he joined the FAA. He graduated from the FAA Academy and was then based in Evansville, IN as an air traffic controller. After that experience, he joined the PWK team as a controller, then he was assigned to Midway International Airport, and then he returned 'home again' to PWK.

"I think my ability to work with all types of people and maintain a calm demeanor has served me well," he says.

When asked to reflect on his career, he admits that it is a lot of work and long hours. "In this business, I really work whenever I am needed, depending on what is going on," he explains. "But the people are really great."

We salute you, Sam Lasky, and wish you well.