

**CHICAGO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025  
1020 PLANT ROAD, WHEELING IL 60090  
6:00 PM**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Dunne called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Roll call confirmed the following present:

Directors Berman, Dolick, Hellyer, Kearns, and Land. Director Saewert attended via phone.

Also in Attendance: Jeffrey Miller – Executive Director

George Sakas – Director of Economic Development & Admin Services

Jason Griffith – Director of Finance

Andrew Wolanik - Director of Operations & Maintenance

Carmina Esguerra – Administrative Coordinator

Logan Leber – Administrative Intern

TJ Leake – Attorney

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Dunne led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Director Hellyer and seconded by Director Dolick to approve the minutes from October 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes:

Directors Saewert, Berman, Dolick, Hellyer, Kearns, and Lang. Nays: None.

**IV. Changes to Agenda**

None.

**V. Public Comments**

None.

**VI. Presentations**

**A. Airport Spotlight on Charlie Boyle**

Chairman Dunne recognized Charlie Boyle as the Airport Spotlight for the month of October. He was given a plaque and several gifts for his contributions and friendship to Chicago Executive Airport. (Chairman Dunne's statement is included at the end of this document).

Mr. Boyle reflected on his 43 years with the Civil Air Patrol, describing how the organization gave him purpose and a way to serve. He shared life advice he received at age 16—offer a firm handshake, always do your best, make a difference, and maintain a good attitude—and noted these principles have guided him throughout his service. He expressed gratitude for the support he has received from the airport community and the board, especially with securing and improving the building for squadron use. Mr. Boyle concluded by thanking everyone for their ongoing assistance and dedication.

## **VII. Hearings & Reports**

### **A. Director of Finance**

Director of Finance Jason Griffith reported on the following:

- ➔ October was the sixth month of the fiscal year, using a straight-line method, the targeted percentage collected or expended is 50% of the budget. Operating revenues in October were 49.59% and operating expenses were 43.08% of the budget.

### **B. Executive Director**

Jeffrey Miller reported on the following:

- ➔ Operations for October 2025 were 9,846, 8% above October 2024. The previous 12-month ops were up slightly at 1% at 101,696, 24% above our average month of October since 2015.
- ➔ Total fuel flowage for October 2025 was 767,598, 4% above October 2024. The previous 12-month fuel flowage was slightly higher at 8,102,405. 14 consecutive months above 8M gallons. 29% above our average month of October since 2015.
- ➔ 34 Custom clearances in October 2025. Ten fewer than October 2024. The previous 12-month Customs clearances decreased to 554. The 38<sup>th</sup> month above 500. 2 clearances below the average of October since 2015.
- ➔ The number of noise comments totaled 37 for the month of October 2025. There were 3.8 comments per 1000 flight operations. All 28 comments from Prospect Heights came from a single household.
- ➔ Residential Sound Insulation Program Update
  - 640 Applications received to date
  - Newsletter: 13<sup>th</sup> Edition distributed week of Oct. 06.
  - Phase 3 Homeowner Workshop: November 5, 6-7:30 pm at Wheeling Park District was very well attended.

## Phase 2

- 100% completed.
- One-year workmanship warranty in effect

## Phase 3(39 Homes)

- Design visits: Week of Dec. 1 & Dec. 8
- Homeowner design acceptance: Jan. 2026
- Construction starts: Spring/Summer 2026

## Phase 4 (42 Homes)

- Pre-noise testing: Completed in October of 2025
- Design phase for eligible homes: Early 2026

### ➔ Construction Projects:

- Northeast Quadrant New Tie Down Area: The ramp is open, and tenants are moving in/
- Taxiway Echo/Hotspot Mitigation: Intergovernmental agreements completed 11/15/2025.
- EMAS Replacement: Work was completed 11/6/25 within three days. Working with the insurance company for payout.
- Sky Harbour Project: Review storm water requirements
- Runway 6/24 closure: The FAA inquired on NAVAID ownership, no update on the EA legal review status
- ADS-B antenna has been removed.

### ➔ Other Projects:

- The Airport has narrowed the review of the RFQ's from nine down to two firms – RS&H and the Wight Company. We have office visits in December for a Board recommendation.

### ➔ Federal Affairs Update

- Funding has been extended through January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### ➔ State Affairs Update

- Request has been made to IDA for 5 million for our new building
- Letter written for the Secretary from IPAA to review pay parity within IDOT

### ➔ Air Taxi Conference Europe

- Format = Seminars & "Speed Dating" Meetings
- Airport represented – Tampa, Miami, Orlando, Montreal, Edmonton
- Notable Attendees – US Airline Republic Airways and Woolpert Engineering

- Lots of consultants asking to build us what we want for a vertiport. We don't know what we need and it will be airframe dependent.
- Airframe manufacturers – Continues to have Archer, Joby, Eve, eHang. Some consolidation in market-focused aircraft.
  - SkyDrive for urban flights
  - Electra – ultra-short take-off – more economical than Cessna Caravan for regional flights
- Testing and flights continue in the Middle East and Asia
- ➔ Upcoming Meeting and Events
  - Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Holiday
  - December 5<sup>th</sup>, Friday, Holiday Party
  - Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, Regular Board Meeting

#### C. Board Members' Comments

Director Kearns congratulated Andrew Wolanik for successfully getting the EMAS operational again. He also acknowledged the presence of the insurer, noting the importance of having them involved from a liability standpoint. Director Kearns concluded by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

#### D. Correspondence and Chairman's Comments

Chairman Dunne wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and expressed his appreciation to the Village of Wheeling, the City of Prospect Heights, and Chicago Executive Airport. He highlights their time is valuable and sincerely appreciated.

### VIII. New Business

#### A. Resolution 25-037 – A Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Claims

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

#### B. Resolution 25-038 – A Resolution Approving Annual Airport Insurance Policies

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

- C. Resolution 25-039 – A Resolution Approving an Updated Scope of Work with RS&H Inc. for an Environmental Assessment Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to Decommission Runway 6/24 and Relocate Taxiway D

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

- D. Resolution 25-040 – A Resolution Approving the 2026 Board of Directors Regular Meetings & Holiday Schedule

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

- IX. Executive Session** - Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) to discuss the purchase or lease of properties for the use of CEA.

- X. Action Taken from Executive Session**

None.

- XI. Adjournment**

At 6:45 pm a motion was made by Director Lang and seconded by Director Berman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by roll call. Ayes: Director Berman, Dolick, Hellyer, Kearns, Lang, and Saewert. Nays: None.

Respectfully submitted:



Steve Berman

Secretary

## **Airport Spotlight on Charlie Boyle**

Charlie Boyle, 96 years young, is a longtime friend of Chicago Executive Airport. To recognize this humble aviation buff, we'd like to shine the spotlight on Charlie who has given so much to our airport. But there is a lot about Charlie's life story that goes well beyond aviation.

As a child in the foster care system, he had his first airplane ride from a kind pilot who he regularly watched him fly in and out of the local airport. Riding high in that Piper J3 Cub, he caught the 'flying bug.' With big dreams and a new passion for airplanes, Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at age 16, slipping past the minimum age of 17. While stationed in Washington, D.C. and playing trumpet in the military band, he enjoyed learning photography with his Argus C3 camera which he recalls cost him \$30, a great sum of money at the time. One remarkable day, he happened to capture shots of a small plane collision which caught the attention of superiors. "The sergeant told me they were really great pictures," Charlie recalls. "He said I was wasted in the band and offered to send me to Air Force photography school at Lowry Field in Colorado. I jumped at the chance." He went on to learn both aerial photography and how to fly an airplane.

Once discharged from service, Charlie found a job in a Pittsburgh area steel mill and later a coal mine. Not much photography needed in those positions, so he continued to practice his skills after hours, taught himself to use a movie camera, and occasionally supplied film to local television stations.

One day he happened upon a man who was threatening to jump off a bridge and Charlie kindly approached him to try to talk him down. It instantly became a news story and as part of the coverage, he was interviewed by a KDKA-TV news reporter who learned of his camera skills.

Back at the station, the reporter encouraged his manager to take a chance on hiring Charlie who ended up working there as a cameraman for ten years. Because he could fly, he was often dispatched to hard-to-reach story locations, like a coal mine disaster. While covering a five-alarm fire in Pittsburgh for KDKA, his camera moved across an unknown woman in the crowd. "She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen in my life," Charlie reflects. He introduced himself and included images of her in his story. That woman, Linda, became his wife.

After receiving a promotion to WMAQ-TV, he and his family moved to Chicago. He later became a cameraman for the NBC network where he covered major news events such as the Chicago riots after the death of Martin Luther King, Kennedy's assassination, and the ensuing hunt for Lee Harvey Oswald. His stories are endless. Along the way, he was recognized with five Emmy Awards and two TV Hall of Fame Awards.

Meanwhile, Charlie always loved flying when he could and made CEA his second home. In 1986 he became volunteer Commander of the airport's Civic Air Patrol (CAP), a role he held for 19 years. He started with ten community volunteers, which eventually grew to 100. Over the course of this role, he mentored hundreds of young people and collaborated with CEA management to increase resources for the program.

"The CAP is basically the volunteer search and rescue team for any plane that goes down in our area, plus it provides aviation experience and leadership training to young people," he explains. "Because we aren't funded by Air Force or the state, there were moments when I pushed for things that we needed."

In 2016, Charlie was inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame.

He has nothing but good words to say about his CEA experience. "Every courtesy and consideration was offered to me and the CAP squadron," he says. "At each step along the way, as we gave of ourselves, the airport management gave of themselves to assist us. And let me say that CEA is just a great place to hang out."