

Ashtabula County Airport Authority
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 11, 2024 07:45AM EST

Board Members Present

Dwight Bowden, President
Lance Bushweiler, Vice President
John Ambrose
Don Ballard
Eric Cornelius (T)
Barbara Ford (T)
Bill Koleno (T)
Kate Reedy (T)
Mark Stackhouse (T)
George Toth

Others Present

Jason Fairchild, Andrews & Pontius LLC
JP Ducro, Ashtabula County Commissioner (T)
Nicole Bryan, Michael Baker International
Adam Bowden, Public
Kate Burke-Rosales, NEORA

*(T) Teleconference Participant

The meeting was called to order at 7:47AM EST by Vice President Bushweiler. At the request of the Vice President, Secretary confirmed a quorum. This Special Meeting was scheduled to rescind and vacate the results of the election of officers taken on 04/11/2024 and to hold a new election of officers.

Lance Bushweiler reported that during a review of the Ashtabula County Airport Authority's Bylaws, it came to light that the election of officers held during the annual meeting in April, was incorrect. Attorney Jason Fairchild conducted a legal review on the process and determined that is not appropriate for any political subdivision to use paper ballots to vote. Voting should only be conducted in an open meeting and via roll-call vote. Case law was provided for reference. Since all other voting by the Board has been done through roll-call vote, the election of officers is the only issue that needs to be addressed. In 2023, Don Ballard requested the election of officers be made through paper ballot. At that time, no one was aware of the case that had passed through the state.

George Toth entered the meeting at 7:55AM.

Jason Fairchild read the proposed resolution out loud:

RESOLUTION to rescind and vacate the results of the election of officers taken on April 11, 2024 for the purpose of President and Vice President and to hold a new election for the positions of President and Vice President in compliance with R.C. § 121.22, **WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees for the Ashtabula County Airport Authority has determined that it is necessary and proper for it to rescind and vacate the results of the election of officers that was held on April 11, 2024, by use of paper ballots; **WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees for the Ashtabula County Airport Authority has determined that the vote held utilizing paper ballots on April 11, 2024 constituted a violation of R.C. § 121.22, the Ohio Meetings Act, and the Board of Trustees for the Ashtabula County Airport Authority desires to correct this deficiency by holding a special meeting for the purpose of holding an election for the positions of President and Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the Ashtabula County Airport Authority via roll call vote consistent with the requirements of Ohio law. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Ashtabula County Airport Authority hereby rescinds and vacates the results of the election of officers taken on April 11, 2024, for the positions of President and Vice President. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Ashtabula County Airport Authority shall forthwith hold a new election for the positions of President and Vice President for the Board of Trustees for the Ashtabula County Airport Authority by roll call vote in accordance with R.C. §121.22, the Ohio Meetings Act, moved by Dwight Bowden, seconded by Lance Bushweiler; discussion: While the Airport Authority is its own entity, separate and apart from the County, it is still a public body. The public should know how the Board votes and roll-call is the best way to ensure that. Roll-call: Ambrose "yes", Ballard "yes", Bowden "yes", Bushweiler "yes", Cornelius "yes", Ford "yes", Koleno "yes", Reedy "yes", Stackhouse "yes", Toth "yes", motion carried.

Commissioner Ducro entered the meeting at 8:01AM via teleconference.

MOTION to reopen the nominations for President and Vice President moved by John Ambrose, seconded by Don Ballard; discussion: John Morrison is not in attendance. Roll-call: Ballard "yes", Bowden "no", Bushweiler "no", Cornelius "no", Ford "no", Koleno "no", Reedy "no", Stackhouse "no", Toth "no", Ambrose "yes", motion did not carry.

MOTION to vote and elect the President move by Dwight Bowden, seconded by Lance Bushweiler; discussion: Candidates nominated for the position during the annual meeting held 04/11/2024 via roll-call vote were Dwight Bowden and Bill Koleno. Bill Koleno noted that during the previous election the Board voted for him because they wanted change. Votes are as follows: Bowden "Bowden", Ballard "Abstain", Bushweiler "Bowden", Cornelius "Bowden", Ford "Bowden", Koleno "Koleno", Reedy "Abstain", Stackhouse "Bowden", Toth "Bowden", Ambrose "Bowden".

Bowden = 7 votes, Koleno = 1, Abstain = 2. Dwight Bowden is elected President.

MOTION to vote and elect the Vice President move by Dwight Bowden, seconded by Mark Stackhouse; discussion: Candidates nominated for the position during the annual meeting held 04/11/2024 via roll-call vote were Don Ballard and Lance Bushweiler. Votes are as follows: Bushweiler "Bushweiler", Cornelius "Bushweiler", Ford "Bushweiler", Koleno "Bushweiler", Reedy "Abstain", Stackhouse "Bushweiler", Toth "Bushweiler", Ambrose "Bushweiler", Ballard "Bushweiler", Bowden "Bushweiler".

Bushweiler = 9 votes, Ballard = 0, Abstain = 1. Lance Bushweiler is elected Vice President.

Public Comments – None to report.

New Business – None to report.

Adjournment

Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 08:15AM EST. Meeting adjourned at 8:10AM, moved by Dwight Bowden, seconded by Mark Stackhouse.



Kate Burke-Rosales
Ashtabula County Airport Authority, Secretary/Treasurer