

Ashtabula County Airport Authority
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 01:00PM

Board Members Present

Lance Bushweiler, President
John Ambrose, Vice President
Russ Battiato
Dwight Bowden
Eric Cornelius
Garrett Demshar
Bill Koleno
George Toth

Others Present

Aiden Gill, Michael Baker Int'l
Kate Burke-Rosales, NEORA

*(T) Teleconference Participant

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President Bushweiler. At the request of the President, the Secretary/Treasurer confirmed a quorum. President Bushweiler noted the special meeting was called to consider two time-sensitive equipment matters: accepting delivery of a fully grant-funded piece of equipment and addressing the replacement of the airport's inoperable forklift, which is essential to airport maintenance operations and customer service.

George Toth entered the meeting at 1:01PM.

Forklift Replacement: The Board discussed replacing the airport's inoperable forklift, which was purchased used in 2020 for \$14,050. The forklift is regularly used for maintenance operations, material handling, customer service activities, and moving de-icing fluid totes. After in-house diagnostics and a third-party inspection by Geauga Lift, it was determined that repairing the existing unit would not be cost-effective due to extensive mechanical issues and corrosion, with concerns that repairs would be ongoing. A quote was received from Value Forklifts for a 2020, 6,000-pound Hyster forklift with a 12-month warranty, including a \$3,000 trade-in allowance for the existing unit. The replacement was proposed to be funded through donated funds, and the Board emphasized the need to restore this essential piece of equipment rather than relying on borrowed equipment from tenants.

MOTION to purchase a 2020 Hyster Forklift for \$17,895 to be funded by a private donation, and to request an invoice from Geauga Lift for their diagnosis; moved by Dwight Bowden, seconded by John Ambrose: discussion: none; roll-call: Ambrose "yes", Bowden "yes", Cornelius "yes", Demshar "yes", Koleno "yes", Toth "yes", Bushweiler "yes"; motion carried.

Deicing Truck Acceptance: The Board discussed quality concerns identified during inspection of the newly delivered deicing truck, including a potential front axle assembly issue and missing rear door seals. Additional measurements and photographs were provided to the manufacturer for review.

MOTION to formally reject acceptance of the deicing truck, withholding payment of the invoice, and requiring the manufacturer to correct all deficiencies at its expense before the unit is accepted, moved by Dwight Bowden, seconded by George Toth.

Russ Battiato entered the meeting at 1:14PM.

Motion discussion: Given the unresolved concerns, Board members emphasized that a new, grant-funded piece of equipment should meet all specifications and quality standards prior to acceptance. The vendor acknowledged the deficiency. It was noted that on-site operator training is included with the purchase and suggested using that opportunity to jointly inspect the equipment, verify all systems are functioning properly, and identify any additional deficiencies before accepting the unit. Roll-call: Bowden "yes", Cornelius "yes", Demshar "yes", Koleno "yes", Toth "yes", Ambrose "yes", Battiato "yes", Bushweiler "yes"; motion carried.

Adjournment

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 08/13/2026 at 8:00AM. Meeting adjourned at 1:18PM, moved by Dwight Bowden, seconded by John Ambrose.



Kate Burke-Rosales

Ashtabula County Airport Authority, Secretary/Treasurer