

**REGULAR MEETING  
GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
March 10, 2023**

The Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority ("Authority") met on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Authority's Administrative Offices, Asheville Regional Airport ("Airport"), 61 Terminal Drive, Suite 1, Asheville, NC 28732.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brad Galbraith, Chair; George H. Erwin, Jr., Vice-Chair; Carl H. Ricker, Jr.; Susan Russo Klein; Britt Lovin; Nathan Kennedy; and Robby Russell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT:** Cindy Rice, Authority Legal Counsel; Lew Bleiweis, President & CEO ("president"); Michael Reisman, Chief Operating Officer; Tina Kinsey, VP - Marketing, Public Relations and Air Service Development; Janet Burnette, Chief Financial Officer; John Coon, VP - Operations and Maintenance; Christina Madsen, VP - Business Development and Properties; Jared Merrill, VP - Planning; Samuel Sales, Chief of Public Safety; Angela Wagner, VP - Administration and Human Resources; Daniela Lajos, Operations Manager; and Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kerry A. Friedman, Patla, Straus, Robinson & Moore, PA; John Mafera, McFarland Johnson; Amanda Sheridan, McFarland Johnson; Kevin Fuhr, Hanson Professional Services, Inc.; Hunter Boniface, Parrish & Partners; Paul Puckli, CHA

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION:** Carl H. Ricker, Jr. spoke about his background in commercial real estate development, the boards on which he has had the privilege to serve, and his role with the Horatio Alger Association.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** The Chair recognized Daniela Lajos with a service award and gift for her 15 years of service with the Authority.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** A review of enplanements, aircraft operations, and general aviation activity for the month of January was delivered by the president. Janet Burnette reported on the financial activity for the month of January.

**CONSENT ITEMS:** The Chair stated that Consent Item B, Approval of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority February 3, 2023 Closed Session Minutes, would be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

**A. Approval of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority February 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Russell moved to approve the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority February 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Preliminary Approval of Authority's Amended Ordinance of Airline Rates, Fees and Charges for the Asheville Regional Airport:** Janet Burnette stated that in accordance with Ordinance No. 201601-9 and in preparation for the upcoming FY23/24 Budget, a new Schedule of Airline Rates, Fees and Charges for FY23/24 has been developed using the same agreed-upon rate methodology. Mrs. Burnette stated that the proposed rates are higher overall to provide adequate revenue to cover airline operating costs and that the airlines have been presented with the proposed airline rates, fees and charges. A public hearing is required prior to the adoption of the new rates.

A question was raised with regards to the growth at the airport and the limited parking available and whether the increased revenue was attributed to parking or airlines vs. rental cars. The President explained that airline rates, fees and charges is one of the airport's largest revenue sources, however, the goal is to balance the expenses to the airlines' revenue. The airport keeps the rates as low as possible to attract air service. A brief discussion took place on the calculation of rates and charges and its effect on an airline's decision to operate at an airport.

Mr. Ricker moved to approve the proposed Airline Rates, Fees and Charges; schedule a public hearing and accept public comment on the proposed Airline Rates, Fees and Charges; and following the minimum period for public comment and public hearing, adopt the Airline Rates, Fees and Charges for FY2023/2024 at the next scheduled Authority Board meeting. Mr. Lovin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of Authority's Preliminary Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget:** Janet Burnette presented the proposed preliminary Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget and briefly reviewed the Operating Revenues and Expenses, Net Operating Income, and Interest Income. Mrs. Burnette highlighted the increase in operating revenues resulting from a growth in enplanements as well as a rise in some fees.

The operating expenses were reviewed including a salary adjustment pool and the addition of 15 full-time equivalents ("FTE's"). The president referenced information received from Steve Van Beek of Steer, the firm retained by the Authority for assistance with the strategic plan. Steer was tasked with looking at the airport's staffing levels, and their research indicated that the employee count had fallen below that of the average number of employees working at other airports of similar size. The proposed FY 23/24 budget contained 15 FTE's to take some of the burden off current staff and also have the adequate number of employees for the size of the airport. The president reviewed the departments expected to increase in employee count and the rationale for the growth in those departments. Mrs. Burnette informed the Board that an increase in the president's spending authority was also included in the FY23/24 budget as directed by the Board last November when the president's spending authority was last increased. Staff used the CPI to adjust the president's spending authority from \$75,000 to \$76,000. The president also informed the Board that the SMS (safety management systems) consulting services included in the operating expenses in the budget is for the airport to create a safety process recently mandated by the FAA. The airport has a couple of years to implement a process.

Mrs. Burnette spoke about the proposed capital budget comprised of a parking guidance system, south parking lot construction, garage repairs, rental car concrete repairs, and conference room improvements. Capital funding sources, reserve funds, and cash balance were also reviewed. Mrs. Burnette also pointed out that increases in rates for parking and ground transportation were included in the supplemental fee schedule.

The Board was cognizant of the long lead times on vehicles and equipment and encouraged staff to come back to the Board if the funds for vehicle replacements included in the capital budget were exhausted.

Mr. Ricker moved to approve the Proposed Preliminary Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget and accept public comment on the Proposed Fiscal year 2023/2024 Budget during the next 10 days. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**C. Approval of Bond Issuance:** Janet Burnette reminded the Board that as part of the bond plan for the new terminal building and air traffic control tower, the Authority issued 2022A Bonds in June of 2022. In preparation for the second bond issuance, Womble Bond Dickinson LLP prepared documents for the 2023 Bonds. The Bond Order is to be adopted by the Authority Board and approves the bond financing documents in substantially final form, approves the issuance of the 2023 Bonds pending LGC approval, and authorizes the Chair of the Board, the President, and the CFO to execute the necessary documents for the bond sale and closing date. Mrs. Burnette further explained that Series Indenture No. 3 includes the specific details of the 2023 Bonds and the Preliminary Official Statement is the securities offering document for potential investors.

The attached Bond Order provides the Board's approval of those two documents along with any other documents necessary for the sale and issuance of the 2023 Bonds. The Bond Purchase Agreement is the contract between the Authority, the underwriters of the 2023 Bonds, and the LGC pursuant to which the underwriters agree to buy the 2023 Bonds.

The President reviewed the schedule for the bonds. A brief discussion took place with regards to a delay in the bond issuance and what that would mean for the projects if the Authority did not move forward with the bond issuance.

Mr. Russell moved to adopt the following Bond Order (1) approving the bond financing documents in substantially final form; (2) approving the issuance of the 2023 Bonds pending LGC approval; and (3) authorizing the Chair of the Authority Board, the President & CEO, and the CFO to execute the necessary documents on the bond sale and closing date. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF THE  
GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority was held in the Board Room of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority Offices, located on the second floor of the Airport, 61 Terminal Drive, Suite 1, Fletcher, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting, at 8:30 a.m. on March 10, 2023.

Present: Brad Galbraith, Chair; George H. Erwin, Jr., Vice-Chair; Carl H. Ricker, Jr.; Susan Russo Klein; Britt Lovin; Nathan Kennedy; Robby Russell

Absent: None

Also Present: Cindy Rice, Authority Legal Counsel; Lew Bleiweis, President & CEO; Michael Reisman, Chief Operating Officer; Tina Kinsey, VP – Marketing, PR & Air Service Development; Janet Burnette, Chief Financial Officer; John Coon, VP – Operations & Maintenance; Christina Madsen, VP – Business Development & Properties; Jared Merrill, VP – Planning; Samuel Sales, Chief of Public Safety; Angela Wagner, VP – Administration & HR; Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board; Kerry Friedman, Patla, Straus, Robinson & Moore, PA; John Mafera, McFarland Johnson; Amanda Sheridan, McFarland Johnson; Kevin Fuhr, Hanson Professional Services, Inc.; Hunter Boniface, Parrish & Partners, Paul Puckli, CHA

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Janet Burnette introduced the following order the title of which was read and a copy of which had been previously distributed to each Member:

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY THE GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF AIRPORT SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS (AMT), SERIES 2023 IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$175,000,000 TO FINANCE VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AND PAYING CERTAIN ASSOCIATED EXPENSES; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

BE IT ORDERED by the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority (the “Authority”):

Section 1. The Authority does hereby find and determine as follows:

(a) The Authority has heretofore executed and delivered an Amended and Restated General Trust Indenture, dated as of June 1, 2022 (the "General Indenture"), between the Authority and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (the "Trustee"), authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds thereunder for the purpose of financing or refinancing the costs of improvements at the Asheville Regional Airport (the "Airport") as further provided therein.

(b) There exists a need at the Airport for various capital improvements including, without limitation, (i) the expansion and modernization of its existing terminal, (ii) expansion and modernization of ticket lobby, TSA screening, baggage claim and concessions areas, (iii) improvements to existing supporting infrastructure, (iv) construction of a centralized energy plant, (v) renovation of the remaining portion of the existing terminal building, and (vi) construction of a new air traffic control tower (the "Project").

(c) As part of a multi-phase plan of finance to pay the costs of the Project, the Authority has previously issued its \$185,000,000 Airport System Revenue Bonds (AMT), Series 2022A (the "Series 2022A Bonds").

(c) The Authority has determined to issue its Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority Airport System Revenue Bonds (AMT), Series 2023 (the "Series 2023 Bonds") for the purpose of providing funds, together with other available funds including the proceeds of the Series 2022A Bonds, to (i) pay costs of the Project, (ii) pay capitalized interest with respect to the Bonds, (iii) fund a debt service reserve fund or purchase a debt service reserve fund policy for the Bonds and (iv) pay certain other fees and expenses associated with the issuance of such revenue bonds including, without limitation, a bond insurance premium.

(d) The Authority has made application to the North Carolina Local Government Commission (the "Commission") for approval of the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds in accordance with G.S. 159-86 and, pursuant to Section 7 hereof, is requesting the sale of the Series 2023 Bonds by private negotiated sale to the underwriters thereof.

(e) The Authority proposes to sell the Series 2023 Bonds to an underwriting group consisting of Siebert Williams Shank & Co., LLP and Raymond James & Associates, Inc. (the "Underwriters"), pursuant to the provisions of the Bond Purchase Agreement (hereinafter defined), at such prices determined by the Commission, subject to the approval of the Authority.

(f) There have been presented to the Authority at this meeting forms of the following documents relating to the issuance and sale of the Bonds:

(1) Series Indenture, Number 3, to be dated as of May 1, 2023 (the "Series Indenture"), between the Authority and the Trustee, pursuant to which the Series 2023 Bonds would be issued;

(2) Bond Purchase Agreement, to be dated the date of execution and delivery thereof (the "Bond Purchase Agreement"), among the Authority, the Commission and Siebert

Williams Shank & Co., LLP, as representative of the Underwriters, relating to the sale of the Series 2023 Bonds; and

(3) Preliminary Official Statement, to be dated the date of delivery thereof (the "Preliminary Official Statement"), relating to the sale and offering of the Series 2023 Bonds.

(g) The Authority has determined that the issuance and sale of the Series 2023 Bonds in the manner provided in this order is in the best interests of the Authority.

Section 2. Capitalized words and terms used in this order and not defined herein shall have the same meanings given such words and terms in the General Indenture and the Series Indenture.

Section 3. Pursuant to the provisions of The State and Local Government Revenue Bond Act, as amended (the "Act"), particularly G.S. 159-88, the Authority hereby authorizes the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds for the purposes described above in an aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$175,000,000. The exact amount of Series 2023 Bonds to be issued shall be determined by the Chair, the President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Authority (collectively, the "Authority Officials") at the time the Series 2023 Bonds are sold to the Underwriters and shall be an amount sufficient, together with any other available funds, to pay the amounts specified in subsection (c) of Section 1 above.

The Series 2023 Bonds shall bear interest and mature at such times and in such amounts as shall be set forth in the General Indenture and the Series Indenture, subject to the provisions of this order, such rates, maturities and amounts to be determined by the Authority Officials at the time the Series 2023 Bonds are sold to the Underwriters. The final maturity of the Series 2023 Bonds shall not be later than December 31, 2053. The true interest cost of the Series 2023 Bonds shall not exceed 7.00% per annum.

Section 4. The Series 2023 Bonds shall be subject to optional and mandatory sinking fund redemption at the times, upon the terms and conditions, and at the prices determined by the Authority Officials, such redemption terms to be set forth in the Series Indenture.

Section 5. The proceeds of the Series 2023 Bonds shall be applied as provided in the Series Indenture.

Section 6. The Series 2023 Bonds shall be secured as provided in the General Indenture and the Series Indenture.

Section 7. The Commission is hereby requested to sell and award the Series 2023 Bonds to the Underwriters in a negotiated sale on behalf of the Authority, subject to the approval of the Authority, in accordance with the terms and provisions set forth in the Bond Purchase Agreement. Each of the Authority Officials is hereby designated to approve on behalf of the Authority the sale of the Series 2023 Bonds to the Underwriters for such purchase price and upon such terms and conditions as such officer shall determine, subject to the provisions of this order. Each of the Authority Officials is hereby authorized and directed in the name and on behalf of the Authority to execute and deliver the Bond Purchase Agreement in substantially the form presented, together with such changes, additions and deletions as the person executing the Bond

Purchase Agreement, with the advice of counsel, may deem necessary and appropriate, such execution and delivery to be conclusive evidence of the approval and authorization in all respects of the form and content thereof.

Section 8. The form, terms and provisions of the Series Indenture, including the form of the Series 2023 Bonds set forth therein, are hereby approved, and each of the Authority Officials is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Series Indenture in substantially the form presented, together with such changes, additions and deletions as such persons, with the advice of counsel, may deem necessary and appropriate, including, without limitation, changes, additions and deletions necessary to incorporate the final terms of the Series 2023 Bonds as set forth in the Bond Purchase Agreement and to incorporate certain terms and provisions required by the rating agencies, such execution and delivery to be conclusive evidence of the approval and authorization in all respects of the form and content thereof. The Chair of the Authority and the Clerk to the Board or any deputy or assistant Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Series 2023 Bonds in substantially the form presented, together with such changes, additions and deletions as such persons, with the advice of counsel, may deem necessary and appropriate, including, without limitation, changes, additions and deletions necessary to incorporate the final terms of the Series 2023 Bonds.

Section 9. The Preliminary Official Statement relating to the offering for sale of the Series 2023 Bonds is hereby approved. The Authority hereby authorizes and approves the use and distribution of the Preliminary Official Statement in substantially the form presented in connection with the offering for sale of the Series 2023 Bonds by the Underwriters. The Authority authorizes and consents to the preparation and distribution of a final Official Statement, in substantially the form of the Preliminary Official Statement, together with such changes as are necessary to reflect the final terms of the Series 2023 Bonds. The Authority Officials are each hereby authorized and directed to deliver the Official Statement such delivery to be conclusive evidence of the approval and authorization in all respects of the form and content thereof.

Section 10. The Authority Officials are each hereby authorized to take such action as is necessary to obtain a policy of municipal bond insurance for the Series 2023 Bonds (the "Bond Insurance Policy") or a surety bond or other qualified reserve fund substitute to fund the debt service reserve fund for the Series 2022A Bonds or the Series 2023 Bonds (the "Surety Bond") if such officer determines that procuring a Bond Insurance Policy or a Surety Bond is in the best interest of the Authority. The premium for the Bond Insurance Policy or the Surety Bond shall be paid from the proceeds of the Series 2023 Bonds or other available funds of the Authority. The Authority Officials are each hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any documentation necessary for the procurement of the Bond Insurance Policy or the Surety Bond.

Section 11. On March 11, 2022, the Board adopted a resolution making certain findings (the "Findings Resolution") required by the Commission related to the Series 2022A Bonds and the Series 2023 Bonds. The Board does hereby ratify and affirm the findings set forth in Section 1 of the Findings Resolution as of the date hereof with respect to the Project and the Series 2023 Bonds assuming the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$175,000,000. The Board hereby ratifies and approves the filing of an application with the Commission for the approval of the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds for the purposes set

forth in Section 1(c) hereof in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$175,000,000. Except as otherwise noted with respect to the Underwriters described in Section 1(e) hereof, the professionals described in Section 5 of the Findings Resolution will continue to serve in the same capacities for the Series 2023 Bonds.

Section 12. Each of the Authority Officials, the Clerk to the Board and any assistant or deputy Clerk to the Board of the Authority is authorized and directed (without limitation except as may be expressly set forth in this order) to take such action and to execute and deliver the Series Indenture, the Series 2023 Bonds, the Bond Purchase Agreement and such certificates, agreements, instruments, opinions or other documents as they, with the advice of counsel, may deem necessary or appropriate to effect the transactions contemplated by this order, the General Indenture, the Series Indenture and the Bond Purchase Agreement, including, without limitation, any documents related to the investment of the proceeds of the Series 2022A Bonds and the Series 2023 Bonds. The Clerk to the Board and any assistant or deputy Clerk to the Board for the Authority hereinafter provided for is hereby authorized to affix the seal to such instruments and attest the same. The Clerk to the Board and any assistant or deputy Clerk to the Board for the Authority is further authorized to certify the authenticity of such records of the Authority as shall be required in connection with the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds and the fulfillment of the terms of the Bond Purchase Agreement in connection therewith.

The officers of the Authority and the agents and employees of the Authority are hereby authorized and directed to do all acts and things required of them by the provisions of this order, the Series 2023 Bonds, the General Indenture, the Series Indenture and the Bond Purchase Agreement for the full, punctual and complete performance of the terms, covenants, provisions and agreements of the same, including all administrative actions as shall be required to be taken after the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds. The officers of the Authority are authorized to take such actions as may be necessary or desirable in order to permit or qualify the offering of the Series 2023 Bonds in any jurisdiction the Underwriters may request.

Section 13. This order shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Upon motion of Robby Russell, seconded by Nathan Kennedy, the foregoing order entitled "ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE BY THE GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF AIRPORT SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS (AMT), SERIES 2023 IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$175,000,000 TO FINANCE VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT THE ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AND PAYING CERTAIN ASSOCIATED EXPENSES; AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH" was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: 7

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Noes: None

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I, Ellen M. Heywood, Clerk to the Board of Directors of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of so much of the proceedings of said Authority at a regular meeting held on March 10, 2023, as it relates in any way to the adoption of the foregoing order and that said proceedings are recorded in the minutes of said Authority.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the Authority this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

*Ellen M. Heywood*

Clerk to the Board



**D. Approval of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023:** Janet Burnette informed the Board that staff has been pleased with Martin Starnes & Associates as the Authority's auditors for the past two years. Staff recommends engaging Martin Starnes & Associates for the audit of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Mrs. Burnette stated that the contract fee for their services amounts to \$31,950.00 and will be paid from the FY24 Finance Department budget.

Ms. Russo Klein moved to approve the contract for audit services with Martin Starnes & Associates in the amount of \$31,950.00 and authorize the Board Chair to execute the necessary documents. Mr. Lovin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**E. Approval of Contract Amendment No. 2 for Quality Assurance Special Inspections with Pond & Company, Inc. for Air Traffic Control Tower and Associated Facilities Project:** Jared Merrill stated that a contract with Pond and Company for design and construction administration services for the Air Traffic Control Tower project was approved by the Board in March 2021. Quality Assurance Special Inspections are a necessary and required part of the project and staff has negotiated with Pond and Company to provide these services at a cost of \$236,250.00. The addition of these services will bring the Pond and Company contract total to \$5,030,901. Mr. Merrill informed the Board that airport funds will be utilized to pay for the services, and based upon presently available project funds, the following budget amendment will be necessary:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

Section 1. To amend the appropriations as follows:

**EXPENDITURES:**

	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Capital Improvements	_____	\$65,000.00 _____
Totals	_____	\$65,000.00 _____

This will result in a net increase of \$65,000.00 in the appropriations. Revenues will be revised as follows:

**REVENUES:**

	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Transfer from GARAA Cash	_____	\$65,000.00 _____
Totals	_____	\$65,000.00 _____

Section 2. Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk to the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority, and to the Budget Officer and to the Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Galbraith, Chair

Attested by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Russell moved to approve the contract Amendment No. 2 for the Quality Assurance Special Inspections of the new Air Traffic Control Tower and Associated Facilities with Pond and Company in the amount of \$236,250.00, amend the design project budget to a total of \$5,065,000.00, authorize the President & CEO to execute the necessary documents, and amend the FY2022/2023 Budget by adopting the budget ordinance amendment as presented by staff. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The president stated that he had a few additional items to address that were not included on the agenda.

**A. 2022 Annual Report:** Copies of the 2022 Annual Report were available at the Board Members' seats for their information.

**B. Bond Underwriting:** The president advised the Board that staff has decided to use Siebert Williams Shank & Co, LLP as the underwriter for the 2023 bonds. Raymond James & Associates was the senior underwriter for the bonds issued in 2022 and Siebert Williams Shank & Co, LLP was the junior underwriter. Raymond James & Associates will be the junior underwriter for the 2023 bonds.

**C. TSA Checkpoint Upgrades:** The president reported that TSA will be installing new equipment at the checkpoint which will improve the technology to screen the bags but has a slower process which could create a longer wait in the checkpoint line. There will be room for a fourth lane at the temporary checkpoint during construction of the terminal and TSA is considering this option.

**D. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant:** 99 airports were awarded grants from the \$1 billion in funds to be allocated this year. Asheville was awarded \$10 million for the air traffic control tower project and \$10 million for the terminal expansion project.

**E. Tree Removal:** The president informed the Board that trees were cleared on airport property to the south of the Marathon gas station in preparation for a new parking lot. There was a visibility issue with the FAA's radar equipment on the north end of the airport property necessitating tree removal from that area as well.

**F. Firearms Press Release:** Due to a continued increase in the number of firearms seized at the security checkpoint, Public Safety will begin issuing criminal citations to anyone found with a gun at the security checkpoint. Chief Sales will work with the district attorney who will process the citations. A press release will be sent out alerting the public of this process. Chief Sales provided a detailed explanation of the process followed when a firearm is found at the checkpoint. Mr. Erwin commented that additional signage to warn passengers would be prudent.

**G. Legislation:** The president stated that work is being done to introduce bills to state legislators that will streamline and clarify when Authority property is swapped or sold for other property.

**H. Award Nomination:** The president was pleased to inform the Board that Tina Kinsey was nominated for an award by the Cranky Network, an airline affiliated group. Mrs. Kinsey was among peers from five airports recognized by the airlines as a best airport partner.

**INFORMATION SECTION:** No comments

**PUBLIC AND TENANTS COMMENTS:** None

**CALL FOR NEXT MEETING:** The Chair stated that the March 29, 2023 meeting would not be necessary since the Preliminary FY23/24 Budget was approved by the Board earlier in the meeting. The Chair stated that the next regular meeting of the Board will be held on April 14, 2023.

**AUTHORITY MEMBER REPORTS:** None

**CLOSED SESSION:** None

**APPROVAL OF THE GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2023 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:** The minutes for the February 3, 2023 Closed Session were distributed and reviewed by Board Members.

Mr. Lovin moved to approve the minutes for the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority February 3, 2023 Closed Session and to seal and withhold the minutes for the February 3, 2023 Closed Session from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the purpose or purposes thereof. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Lovin moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Heywood  
Clerk to the Board

Approved:



Brad Galbraith  
Chair