REGULAR MEETING
GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
October 9, 2026

The Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority ("Authority") met on Friday, October 9, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chambers at the Fletcher Town Hall, 300 Old Cane Creek Road, Fletcher, NC 28732.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Britt Lovin, Chair; Nathan Kennedy, Vice-Chair; Carl H. Ricker, Jr.; Susan Russo Klein; Gene O. Bell; and Shantelle R. Simpson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura B. Leatherwood

STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT: Sabrina P. Rockoff, Authority Legal Counsel; Lew Bleiweis, President & CEO ("president"); Tina Kinsey, Chief Administrative Officer; Amy Harris, Chief Financial Officer; John Coon, VP – Operations and Maintenance; Christina Madsen, Vice President – Business Development and Properties; Jared Merrill, VP – Planning; Samuel Sales, Chief of Public Safety; Angela Wagner, VP - Administration and Human Resources; Angie Daus, VP – Air Service and Corporate Communications; Sebastien Feyaerts, IT Systems Technician; and Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board

ALSO PRESENT: Amanda Bastianelli, McFarland Johnson; Matt Thocker, Signature Aviation; Adam Segal, Martin Starnes; Dan Behringer, Signature Aviaton

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

The Chair welcomed Dr. Shantelle Simpson to the Authority Board.

PRESENTATIONS: None

FINANCIAL REPORT: The president delivered a review of enplanements, aircraft operations, and general aviation activity for the month of August. Amy Harris reported on the financial results for the month of August.

CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority August 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes:

B. Approval of Amendment to the FY26/27 Budget – Public Safety Salary Local Law Enforcement Officer Compensation Bonus Program:

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, 2027:

Section 1. To amend the appropriations as follows:

EXPENDITURES:

	Decrease	Increase
Public Safety Department		$33,910
Totals		$33,910

This will result in a net increase of $33,910 in the appropriations. Revenues will be revised as follows:

REVENUES:

	Decrease	Increase
State Grant Revenue		$33,910
Totals		$33,910

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 9th day of October, 2026.

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Britt Lovin, Chair

Attested by:

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Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Bell moved to approve Consent Items A and B. Mr. Ricker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Presentation of the Draft Annual Audited Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2025/2026: Ms. Harris reported that the FY 2025-2026 Audited Financial Report, prepared by Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A. ("Martin Starnes"), remained in draft form pending the release of the Federal Compliance Supplements. She advised that no significant changes were anticipated but noted that any material revisions would be reported to the Board. Upon finalization, the audited financial statements will be submitted to the Local Government Commission ("LGC").

Ms. Harris then introduced Mr. Adam Segal of Martin Starnes. Mr. Segal reported that the audit had been completed, subject to the release of the Federal Compliance Supplements, and that the Authority received an unmodified, or clean, audit opinion. He further noted that there were no performance indicators requiring follow-up by the LGC.

Mr. Segal reviewed the Authority's revenues, expenditures, and net position, highlighting an increase in unrestricted net position. While the unrestricted net position remained in a deficit position, he explained that the deficit did not reflect an operating loss but was largely attributable to the significant investment in capital assets associated with the terminal expansion project. Mr. Segal further stated his expectation that the deficit would continue to decline following completion of the terminal expansion as operating revenues increase.

The Board thanked Mr. Segal for his presentation.

Ms. Russo Klein moved to accept the 2025/2026 Audit Report as presented. Dr. Simpson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. Resolution Adding Truist Bank as Official Depository – Trustee Accounts: Amy Harris reported that staff had reached out to banks with experience managing Bond Trustee accounts to realize savings of banking fees and improvements in customer service. Truist Bank offered the lowest fees resulting in approximately $6,500 in future annual savings. Staff's recommendation was to move Trustee Bank accounts from The Bank of New York Mellon to Truist Bank. Ms. Harris informed the Board that with the change, there would be a minimal amount of legal fees for the transition resulting in the following budget amendment:

[INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

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, 2026:

Section 1. To amend the appropriations as follows:

EXPENDITURES:

	Decrease	Increase
Finance Department		$11,000
Totals		$11,000

This will result in a net increase of $11,000 in the appropriations. Revenues will be revised as follows:

REVENUES:

	Decrease	Increase
Transfer from GARAA Cash		$11,000
Totals		$11,000

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 9th day of October, 2026.

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Britt Lovin, Chair

Attested by:

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Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Kennedy recused himself from voting on this agenda item.

Mr. Ricker moved to approve the Resolution Designating Official Banking Depositories of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority and amend the FY26/27 Budget by adopting the budget ordinance amendment as presented by staff. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried by a 5 to 0 vote:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING OFFICIAL BANKING DEPOSITORIES OF THE GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority ("GARAA") is a public authority pursuant to the laws of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, the GARAA last updated its official banking depositories by resolution dated February 14, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, the GARAA official depositories list requires an update; and

WHEREAS, the GARAA is of the opinion that it is in the best interests of the GARAA to designate the depositories listed below as its official depositories.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority that:

1. The Finance Officer of the GARAA is authorized to deposit funds of the GARAA in the following depositories:

- Bank of America, N.A.
- The North Carolina Capital Management Trust
- Truist Bank

2. As a public authority pursuant to the laws of North Carolina, all employees of the GARAA and all board members of the GARAA shall abide by the requirements of the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act as set forth therein.

3. Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the depositories designated herein.

4. All prior resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

5. All acts and doings of officers, employees and agents of the GARAA, whether taken prior to, on, or after the date of this Resolution, that are in conformity with and in the furtherance of the purposes and intents of this Resolution as described above shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

6. That this resolution is effective upon its adoption.

This the 9th day of October, 2026.

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Britt Lovin, Chair

Attested by:

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Ellen Heywood, Clerk to the Board

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C. Approval of the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority Board Schedule for 2027: The Chair introduced for discussion the Authority Board meeting schedule, including the possibility of moving meetings from Fridays to either Wednesdays or Thursdays and transitioning approval of the schedule from a calendar-year basis to a fiscal-year basis. Following brief discussion, the Board directed the Clerk to prepare draft schedules for consideration and a subsequent vote at a future Board meeting.

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

A. Moody Bond Rating: The president provided the Board with a copy of the official press release from Moody's announcing the upgrade of the Authority's revenue bond rating to a Baa1 from a Baa2.

B. Topping Out Ceremony: The president informed the Board that the date for the topping out ceremony was confirmed for October 23rd. Should the Board Members not be available to attend the ceremony, the beam will be available to sign prior to October 23rd.

C: Org Chart: An updated organizational chart reflecting the two new Operations Department positions approved by the Board in August was made available to Board members at their seats.

D. Industry Conference Schedule: A schedule of upcoming industry conferences was provided to the Board for their review. To assist with the budgeting process, the Board was asked to express their interest in attending a conference at the next Board meeting.

E. TSA Gate Pass: The Transportation Security Administration ("TSA") has implemented a gate pass program that allows non-ticketed individuals to access the secure side of participating airports. Following pilot testing at a limited number of airports, TSA plans to expand the program to additional locations. Eligibility is limited to individuals enrolled in TSA PreCheck, and requests must be submitted through the TSA website at least 72 hours in advance. Asheville Regional Airport is expected to implement the program within the next 30 to 60 days.

F. LIFT Grant: The president was pleased to report that the Authority received a $500,000 grant from Explore Asheville. The funds will be applied towards the Guest Services/baggage claim area.

G: City of Asheville Policy Chief: The president read a letter received from then interim Police Chief Jackie Stepp thanking Authority staff for their assistance during the G20 Summit recently held in Asheville.

H. PGA Tournament: Figures from the PGA Tournament held in Asheville in September were shared. The Board expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts in hosting aviation partners during the tournament.

I. **Signature Aviation:** The president recognized Matt Thocker who recently retired from Signature Aviation and welcomed Dan Behringer as the new General Manager.

J. **Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development ("HCPED"):** The president presented a plaque awarded during HCPED's Annual Meeting to the Authority as Partner of the Year for the work accomplished on the land swap with Henderson County. The president thanked Christina Madsen for her efforts on this project.

K. **Industry Metrics:** The president shared statistics from an Industry Metrics report published by Airports Council International. Highlights included industry employment, fuel prices, passenger traffic, cost per enplanement, as well as seat capacity.

L. **Reserved Parking:** The Board was provided with a map and vehicle hang tags for use when parking in the reserved spots in the Premium parking lot.

Ms. Harris provided a brief overview of parking revenue since the rate changes went into effect on September 10th.

The Chair thanked staff for their work with the Runway 5k. The president stated that the 5k may not be held in 2027 due to the opening and Admin move to the new terminal. Staff was evaluating alternatives.

INFORMATION SECTION: No comments

PUBLIC AND TENANTS COMMENTS: None

CALL FOR NEXT MEETING: The Chair stated that the next regular meeting of the Board will be held on November 13, 2026 in Council Chambers, Fletcher Town Hall.

AUTHORITY MEMBER REPORTS: None

CLOSED SESSION: At 9:50 a.m. Mr. Kennedy moved that the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority go into closed session at this time pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a) subsections (1), (3), and (5): to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or is not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes; to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body which privilege is hereby acknowledged; and to establish or instruct the Authority's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the Authority in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease. Ms. Russo Klein seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Open Session resumed at 10:27 a.m.

GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY OCTOBER 9, 2026 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Mr. Kennedy moved to seal the minutes for the Closed Session just completed and to withhold such Closed Session minutes from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the purpose or purposes thereof. Dr. Simpson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY JUNE 12, 2026 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Mr. Kennedy moved to approve the minutes for the Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority June 12, 2026 Closed Session and to seal and withhold the minutes for the June 12, 2026 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. Kennedy moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m. Dr. Simpson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Heywood

Ellen Heywood
Clerk to the Board

Approved:

Britt Lovin
Chair