

SPECIAL MEETING
ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
September 27, 2010
11:30 a.m.

The Asheville Regional Airport Authority ("Authority") met on Monday, September 27, 2010 at 11:30 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: David R. Hillier, Chairman; David Gantt, Vice-Chairman (via telephone); Brownie Newman (via telephone); Jeffrey A. Piccirillo; Bob Roberts; and Martha W. Thompson (via telephone).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chuck McGrady, Secretary-Treasurer

STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL PRESENT: Victor Buchanan, Authority Legal Counsel; Lew Bleiweis, Airport Director (via telephone); and Ellen Heywood, Recording Secretary.

CALL TO ORDER: The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER PRO TEM FOR THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING: Mr. Roberts moved to designate and approve Mr. Piccirillo as the Secretary-Treasurer Pro Tem for the Authority's September 27, 2010, Special Meeting and for the preparation of the minutes for such meeting. Mr. Hillier seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES-AIRTRAN AIRWAYS MERGER:

The Chairman stated that due to developments that had occurred within the past few hours, there would be a discussion on the announcement of a merger between Southwest Airlines and AirTran Airways. The Director informed the Board that just this morning Southwest Airlines announced the acquisition of AirTran Airways. AirTran has done very well with service to Orlando and Tampa from AVL. The airlines will operate as two separate entities until mid-2011 and the merger still needs approval from the federal government. The Director further stated that he would work to find out as much information as possible from both Southwest and AirTran on what this merger means for the airport.

Mr. Roberts inquired if this merger announcement was anticipated or if it came as a surprise and also asked how the other airlines would respond to this. The Director responded that the announcement came as a surprise. This merger will give Southwest a presence in Atlanta, the largest airport in the world, as well as allow immediate entrance into the international travel mode without the need for federal approval since AirTran already has some international flights. The Director was not aware of how the other airlines' would respond to this merger but had heard there was speculation of what Jet Blue would do from their hub in New York.

CLOSED SESSION: At 11:39 a.m. Mr. Roberts moved to go into closed session pursuant to subsections 143-318.11(a) (3) and (4) of the General Statutes of North Carolina to consult with legal counsel in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, and to discuss matters relating to the location and/or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the Asheville Regional Airport Authority, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the Asheville Regional Airport Authority in negotiations. Mr. Piccirillo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Open Session resumed at 12:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:05 p.m. Mr. Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Piccirillo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A. Piccirillo

Secretary-Treasurer Pro Tem

Approved:



David R. Hillier

Chairman