

**CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026**

4:30 PM

I. Call To Order

Commissioner Sender called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners Schuler, Pritts, Groves, Rettick, Allen and Swearingen were present. A quorum was acknowledged.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Doug Reeves from EAA Chapter 129 was present to update the Board on their activities. They had scheduled the movie Red Tails to be played at the Normal Theater on the night of the storm. That has been rescheduled for September 23. A \$5.00 donation is all that they are asking. EAA has some members that are participating in the Livingston Area Career Center to provide a 2-year high school class for juniors and seniors developed by AOPA to take the ground school test at the end of the program. 5 students are currently enrolled.

IV. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the July 16, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pritts and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business

- A. **Approval of July Financials** – Ms. Anna Cadmus reported through the end of the first fiscal quarter the Authority's General Fund revenues and expenses are trending favorable to budget with a net positive bottom line. The Capital Fund balance remains low intentionally. All of the FY26 grant reconciliations have been finalized and Staff expects a large federal drawn down following the completion of the annual audit. The CFC Fund revenues and expenses are also trending favorable to budget with a positive bottom line. PFC revenue for July was up about 13% compared to the same period last year.

Anna reported she had completed her review of the draft audit and shared her comments with the audit team along with the MD&A. She is hoping the final draft will be sent in the next few days. As of now, there are no adjustments needed. The final audit will be presented to the Board at the September meeting.

Commissioner Groves made a motion to approve the July financial statements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rettick and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- B. Adopt Resolution No. 2026-14, A Resolution Honoring Mark Cohenour** – After 27 years, Mark Cohenour is retiring from the Airport Authority's airport maintenance department. Mark started as a maintenance worker and has finished out his career as the Maintenance Supervisor for the last few years. The Board wished Mark well in his retirement and thanked him for all his work.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-14, A Resolution Honoring Mark Cohenour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Swearingen and upon a roll call vote, Commissioner Schuler – aye, Commissioner Pritts – aye, Commissioner Groves – aye, Commissioner Rettick – aye, Commissioner Allen – aye, Commissioner Swearingen – aye and Commissioner Sender – aye, the motion carried.

- C. Authorize Award of Employee Health Insurance Agreement** – In preparation for the upcoming expiration of the current employee health insurance agreement on September 30th, Airport Staff requested Clemens Insurance to research and provide competing quotes. With the current limited offerings, Clemens secured a renewal quote from United Healthcare and a competing quote from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois. The United Healthcare quote was significantly lower than the Blue Cross/Blue Shield proposal, while still being 13.5% higher than the expiring price. It was noted that even with the 13% increase, United Healthcare is at the rate the Airport had with Blue Cross back in 2024. The offering with United Healthcare remains the same with a PPO plan and an HSA plan. Opting not to meet to act on this, the Personnel Committee requested Airport Staff to present this renewal information directly to the full Board for their review and consideration.

Mr. Underkofler from Clemens was present at the meeting to review the two programs and their proposed price quotes while also addressing questions from the members. Following this discussion Commissioner Groves made a motion to authorize the award of employee health insurance agreement to United Healthcare. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schuler and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- D. Authorize Amendment to Construction Agreement with UCM, Inc.** – One of the ongoing capital projects approved for this year is the reconstruction of the short-term parking lot and exit roadway. This work is moving along very well, but in the process of administering the project, there was a change in conditions that is resulting in an amendment to the contract. The change order is comprised of three (3) items; revising a sidewalk handrail, substituting a different type aggregate, and adding new/additional underdrain in the short-term lot to address a subsurface water concern. The result for these changes is a net contract savings of \$11,651.30.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to authorize an amendment to the Construction Agreement with UCM, Inc for a deduct change order in the amount of \$11,651.30. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pritts and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- E. **Authorize Professional Services Agreement with Farnsworth Group**– Having just secured the final project funding commitment for the extension of Airport Road, Staff would like to begin project design. The motivation being to position the project to begin construction this next construction season as proposed in grant submission materials.

To move forward Airport Staff invited the Farnsworth Group to prepare a draft scope of work and fee schedule to provide design, bid, and construction phase services for this project. After which, Airport Staff reviewed/refined these materials to better align with project goals. Under the proposed agreement Farnsworth would complete the site and road design work, marry that work with their previously completed intersection design materials, prepare/release competitive bid specifications, and provide construction phase inspection/administrative services for the entire project; excluding materials testing which would be administered by Airport Staff. The cost for these services would \$880,000 which would be funded through the project with a 50% state, 25% federal, and 25% local share.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to authorize a Professional Services Agreement with Farnsworth Group for the not to exceed cost of \$880,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Groves and upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

VII. Staff Reports

Carl reported that Staff has not received all of the July aviation results. Once all information is received, the report will be shared with the members. Initial information so far indicates that once again monthly fuel sales and cargo activity were up significantly largely driven by a large increase in unscheduled air cargo activity. Aircraft operations were down slightly but interestingly local GA traffic was very strong.

Carl provided an update on the August 13th storm damage. CIRA experienced minor damage to buildings on the airport, a vehicle gate, a long length of perimeter fence, and roof antennas. There was significant wind and water damage to the terminal building and fire station 6, while the former FedEx retail facility sustained major overhead door and wall damage. The terminal building experienced severe damage to the roof at the East end of the building, causing large amounts of water to enter both public and tenant spaces in the terminal. Some canopy panels were lost as well. Staff is working on cataloging all the damage to submit to the insurance company. Erik Egeland, the Authority's insurance broker, and representatives from AIG, the Authority's insurance company, will be on site on Tuesday for a complete walk through of all the damage.

Construction on Phase I of the Runway 11/29 Rahab. Project continues on progress and slightly ahead of schedule. As of this week, 29% of the calendar days have been used and 46% of the work has been completed. All paving and runway safety area work is finished with pavement grooving being scheduled for next week and pavement markings in September. After some delayed delivery, the project's electrical components have started to arrive on site; allowing for this work to get underway. There will be intermittent closures of Runway 2/20 in the 2nd half of September. Unfortunately, this is unavoidable as work will need to be done in the safety area of runway 2/20. Staff is working with CMT and the contractor to come up with the best schedule, with the least amount of disruptions for everyone.

Work in the short term parking lot continues to move forward. Demolition on the parking lot itself has been completed, with final grading completed and aggregate has been placed.

The new terminal public address/FIDs project is kicking off next week with a site visit. This project is expected to be completed later this year.

The new CIRA website had a soft launch this week. It should be fully integrated by the end of the month.

Congressman Sorenson's office has been successful in getting \$1.25 million dollars into the House appropriations bill for the new boarding bridges. Senator Duckworth's office has also put in a funding request for \$2.5 million for the project.

Carl reported that staffing efforts are catching up. Mr. Dave Mitchell joins the Authority as the new Maintenance Supervisor. He retired from Tazewell County Asphalt and has spent the last 4 years as a maintenance crewmember at Peoria Airport. Ms. Julie Bakewell has been hired as the new Deputy Director of Finance. She will start August 31st. Mr. Elijah Martin our new operations specialist started August 17th. The accountant position and the 2nd operations specialist remain to be filled.

VIII. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Allen thanked Commissioner Sender, Carl and Staff for their persistence with the Cargo Road project. Commissioner Sender noted how important it is to look in all areas for funding for airport projects.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Board, upon a motion being made, seconded and approved, the august 20, 2026 meeting of the Central Illinois Regional Airport Authority adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Secretary



Date

