



ALTOONA BLAIR COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

310 AIRPORT DRIVE, SUITE 6

MARTINSBURG, PA 16662

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Manager's Report

March 9, 2015

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Gary Orner

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Dick Fox, local coordinator for the Collings Foundation Wings of Freedom Tour, and Gary Orner have both been staying in touch with the Foundation regarding a possible stop for the Wings of Freedom Tour at AOO this summer. Usually, the tour stops at any given airport only every other year, which would place their next visit to AOO in 2016. Dick and Gary will continue to work with the foundation to try to arrange a visit for this summer. The Greater Pennsylvania Military Preservation Association may still hold a WWII event at the airport, whether or not the Wings of Freedom Tour visits.

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce/Explore Altoona Lodging and Attractions Roundtable met at the Kitty Hawk restaurant on February 11, with breakfast provided by the Kitty Hawk. There were about 20 hotels and attractions represented. Also, Sun Air sponsored the Chamber breakfast on February 12. Two free round-trip tickets to PIT were awarded to all attendees whose birthday was in February.

Sun Air Express service with Cessna Caravans began on Saturday, February 28. There will be Caravans in service at Altoona, Bradford, and Jamestown, NY. The mechanics for the Caravans are based in Altoona and all three Caravans will be rotated through here for their regularly scheduled maintenance.

The painting project is continuing in the interior of the terminal. The inmates are also thoroughly cleaning the Durawall wainscoting and replacing the missing areas of Durawall and oak chair rail. In addition, if the removal of the chair rail goes well, we will be relocating chair rail from the garage areas of the terminal to the much more visible public and office areas of the terminal. The inmates and their supervising officer, Randy Dukeman, are doing an excellent job and we appear to be on budget with our project.

New sign inserts for the main entry sign for Sun Air Express and IG Flight Services have been installed.

I am working with PennDOT, both the District 9 Office and the BOA to improve signage to the airport. The local PennDOT district has applied for funding to update a study that was done in the mid-1990's to improve highway access to the airport. The Blair Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, ABCD Corp, and the MPO have identified better airport access as one of the top priorities for Blair County road projects on PennDOT's long range planning.

We have received approval from the FAA to move the Maintenance Office/Break Room to the second floor of the ARFF Building. This will allow more safe, secure, and professional storage of maintenance, ARFF and other 139 records. It will also allow the current office and storage area in the garage to be used as a parts and work room, which will clear space in the garage area for actual garage storage. Also it will give our maintenance crew, which is also our ARFF crew, better view and access to the airfield during break times and times when our maintenance supervisor is doing office work.

We have received quotes for reduced natural gas and electricity rates through On Demand Energy, sponsored by the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. This program would provide us with a rate substantially lower than our current rate and would lock that rate in for 24 months. In addition we are in the process of getting final quotes and installation offers to switch our phone service from Century Link to Atlantic Broadband. There are motions on tonight's agenda to authorize these changes.

We have been approached by the Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau to join their organization. This membership would include placement of a brochure rack in the airport highlighting Huntingdon County attractions. Also, Mark Cestari and I will be speaking at the HCVB Member Tourism Summit on March 31. The purpose of our visit is to be part of a panel to present and then answer questions about various means of public transportation to Huntingdon County.

Dave Scott and Jamie Johnson of Young, Oakes, Brown, have completed the audit for 2014. We will be scheduling a meeting with the Finance Committee soon to review the audit and presenting it to the board at next month's meeting.

Tracy A. Plessinger, Manager