

**COLES COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08, 2026**  
**COLES COUNTY MEMORIAL AIRPORT**  
**COLES COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**8:00 A.M.**

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Coles County Airport Authority was convened at Coles County Memorial Airport, Coles County, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Sauget, Schaefer, Campbell, Zimmer and Nelson. Manager Fearn, Assistant Little and Attorney Smallhorn. Doug Paige of Coles County Aviation. Hanson Engineering representatives, and Lindsay Hausman.

**Open**

No public was present, Chairman Nelson moved the meeting forward.

**Minutes**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Sauget and seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, the minutes for the March 2026 meeting were approved on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

**Financial Report**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Schaefer, and seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the financial report was approved on a roll call vote.

The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

## **FBO Report**

Doug Paige addressed the Board with the monthly ops report. The FBO had Moderate VFR traffic for March and had excellent fuel sales. The flight school has one new student enrolled. Spring Field trips have started.

## **Hanson Master Plan**

Susan Zellers of Hanson Engineering addressed the Board Members outlining the course of action they will take over the coming months in preparation for updates to the Airport Layout Plan and the Airport Master Plan. These updates are necessary to maintain FAA Standards and to ensure future FAA Funding.

## **Ronda Sauget – Strategic Planning**

Commissioner Sauget updated the Board on developments with the Enterprise Zone and Air Park Zone. She invited the Board to talk to Senator Mike Bost during his Airport Tour on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. She also extended an invitation to the Coles Together annual luncheon on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Operating Account- Changing to an Interest-Bearing Account**

Manager Fearn requested approval from the Board to change the Operating Account at Washington Savings Bank from a standard business account to an Interest-Bearing Account.

Commissioner Schaefer made a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Sauget seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

## **Aerinova Aerial – Office HVAC Replacement**

The Board was presented with a proposal from Manager Fearn to Replace the HVAC system in Building G. for the Aerinova Aerial Office. Two bids were received. Manager Fearn recommended the bid from LD Mechanic of Charleston. LD offers a 10-year parts and labor warranty. Commissioner Schaefer made a motion to accept the bid from LD for \$6,750.00. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

## **Change of Date- May 2026 Meeting- May 20th**

Chairman Nelson requested that the May meeting be pushed back one week until May 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Schaefer made a motion to accept the request. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. Commissioner Zimmer and Sauget will not be in attendance. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

## **Manager’s Report**

### **Pre-Construction Meeting**

The Hangar Pavement Replacement Project around hangar D1 and D2 is moving forward. McCarthy will arrive in the coming weeks and will rent office space in Hangar C.

### **Flight Training Plane N84898**

The annual inspection was performed at Hoosier Aviation. A wing tip was replaced, a cowling fastener kit was installed, and the strut step was repaired. Total Cost was \$3,581.00.

### **Aviation Fuel Tax Refund**

The refund will be \$58,534.00

**First Mid Interest Rates**

Working with First Mid on Account rate changes and notifications to secure fair rates on all three accounts.

**Fuel Prices**

Jet Fuel has increased by \$2.28 in the past six weeks. Av Gas has increased by \$1.43. To offset the freight charges, we have been splitting loads with Mt. Vernon Airport.

**ASOS-Automated Surface Observation System Weather**

The unit was upgraded to Broadband internet from analog.

**Airshow**

Less than 90 Days away. Waiver has been submitted.  
Campaigning for Sponsorships.

**Terminal Natural Gas**

The meter has been set, and getting estimates on the piping/fire suppression installation.

**Rural Urban Luncheon**

Commissioner Jim Campbell, Administrative Assistant Billie Little, and Manager Fearn attended. The guest speaker was Tami Craig Schilling.

**Facebook**

211,059 views, 20,133 engagements, 2,781 interactions.

**Website**

725 Visits, 1,713 Views, and 44 engagements.

**Coles Together Annual Luncheon**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Fearn, Little, and the Board plan to attend.

**Executive Session 2C6 Lease of Property, 2C1 Employee Compensation**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Zimmer and seconded by Commissioner Sauget, the Board went into Executive Session at 9:04 a.m. in accordance with Section 2 (C)6 and 2 (C)1 of the Open Meetings Act.

The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, the board came out of Executive Session at 10:08 a.m. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

## **Employee Compensation**

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Zimmer, the Board approved a 3% increase in salary for all Full-time Airport Authority Employees. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Zimmer the Board approved a 3% increase in salary for all Full-Time and Part-Time Coles County Aviation Employees apart from Tate Little and Flight Instructor Mya Cobb. The Board gave Manager Fearn authority to negotiate with FBO Manager Doug Paige to adjust the pay for Little and Cobb based on their individual performance and goals. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Campbell and seconded by Commissioner Zimmer the Board approved the following increases in salary for the Part-Time Maintenance Department Airport Authority employees:

Mowing hourly /new hires: \$16.50

Mowing/with experience: \$17.75

Mowing/ 2+ years' experience: \$18.25

Snow plow/ new hires: \$20.00

Snow plow/ with experience: \$26.50

Snow plow/ 2+ years' experience:\$27.00

The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

### **Commissioners Comments and Questions**

No further comments or questions.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sauget and seconded by Commissioner Schaefer. The motion carried on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

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Recorder