

COLES COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 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, June 10, 2026. Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Campbell, Sauget, Nelson, Zimmer and Schaefer. Attorney Smallhorn, Manager Fearn and Admin. Asst. Little. Also present, Doug Paige of Coles County Aviation.

Open

Hangar tenants Kushagra Mittal and Hank Bauer were present. Commissioner Mark Nelson asked if they would like to address the board, both declined. Chairman Nelson moved the meeting forward.

Minutes

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Sauget and seconded by Commissioner Schaefer, the minutes for the May 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

Chairman Nelson asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information provided for May 2026.

Commissioner Sauget and Commissioner Zimmer inquired about adding a category or report to outline the Capital Account and specifically Capital Improvements. Manager Fearn explained that the information could be supplied to the board for future board meetings each month, but previous board members have not requested it.

Hangar tenant Kushagra Mittal asked for a copy of the financial report provided to the Commissioners. Commissioner Schaefer provided Mr. Mittal with his copy.

Commissioners Sauget and Zimmer asked several questions regarding the budget. Manager Fearn reminded the board that we have an Agenda, and it should be followed unless they request that Chairman Nelson skip ahead in the Agenda and asked that order be returned to the meeting.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Schaefer and seconded by Commissioner Sauget, the financial report for May 2026 was approved on a roll call vote.

The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

FBO Ops Report

Coles County Aviation's Manager Doug Paige addressed the Board. Paige stated the VFR traffic for May was heavy, and the FBO had 22 operations. The first Young Eagles Rally was cancelled due to the weather.

Two additional Rallies are scheduled for August and October.

Flight Instructor Mya Cobb has a new student enrolled. May revenue was slowed for the flight school and Cessna Rentals due to the weather.

Commissioner Zimmer asked Paige how our fuel prices are decided. Paige and Manager Fearn addressed the question, stating that there are multiple factors, first and foremost, margins are considered, then area comps, current load price, and upcoming load prices are also factored.

Commissioner Zimmer and Sauget both stated that they would like to see more revenue captured. Zimmer went on to say that the Authority should be taking advantage of multiple avenues and sales opportunities, which should include changing the Authority's regulations on the

Agriculture side of Aviation at MTO to allow Hot Loading by Aerial Application Operators. Zimmer wanted to know the timeframe that would be required to implement such changes and what measures would need to be taken. Managers Fearn and Paige explained that a designated area would have to be selected, and drains would have to be plugged. Manager Fearn said that this would have to be researched with our Liability Insurance Agent to understand the Authority's liability and coverage. Hangar tenant Kushagra Mittal suggested that we contact Paris and Shelbyville to inquire how they are facilitating this practice. Attorney Smallhorn intervened and reminded the board that there is a legal process that must be followed, and an Ordinance would be required. Administrative Assistant Billie Little reminded the board that they were getting off topic and needed to adhere to the Agenda before them, that if they discussed any changes to the Minimum Standards that an additional meeting would need to be scheduled, with a separate Agenda that the Board could then vote on. The Board agreed to arrange an additional meeting on Wednesday, June 17th.

Pollution Liability Policy Renewal

Manager Fearn presented the Board with information outlining the renewal for the Pollution Liability Policy Renewal.
A motion was made by Commissioner Schaefer and seconded by Commissioner Sauget to accept the renewal.
The motion passed on a roll call vote.
The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

1st Reading of the Budget

The Board reviewed the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance and the Schedule of Disbursements for the Operating Account.
Commissioner Sauget suggested that the account 5450 for Public Relations to be itemized to reflect what efforts are being made to market and campaign the promotion of Coles County Memorial Airport and the services that are available to the community and industry. Manager Fearn responded to the Board that a report can be run for that specific account at any time so that the Board can have a better understanding of the community outreach programs and initiatives that are currently in place.

Mr. Mittal inquired as to why the Airport Authority has added additional staff to the FBO Coles County Aviation and asked if there is a revenue stream to support the additional payroll costs. Commissioner Zimmer and Sauget expanded on the comment to say that they would like to look at 3 months of revenue and expenses for the FBO in a Profit and Loss report. Attorney Smallhorn reminded the Board that they needed to stay on topic that those requests should be discussed in a meeting at another time, and redirected their attention to the Budget and offered his opinion to the Board that Manager Fearn has a very knowledgeable understanding of the annual budget projections and costs related to state and FAA projects. The First Reading of the Annual Budget was approved in a motion by Commissioner Sauget and seconded by Commissioner Schaefer. The draft is to be on display in the Authority office effective immediately until the 2nd Reading of the Budget at the July 2026 Monthly Board Meeting. The motion passed on a roll call vote. The results were as follows:

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

Bond Referendum

It was decided unanimously that the Bond Referendum would be tabled at this time. Manager Fearn addressed the Board and asked them what rate they would like the levy to be set at for this Fiscal Year. The Board agreed that the levy should be set at 5% this year.

Manager's Report

Annual Audit

Last week Kemper CPA started their annual audit. Four auditors were at the Authority Office Monday through Thursday with Manager Fearn and Administrative Assistant Billie Little.

Once completed, the Annual Financial Report will be published in the Oakland Independent Newspaper this year. This change was implemented to cut publication costs by more than half.

Hangar Pavement Project

The Project has started. 21 days onsite to date. Work is progressing well. Two concrete lanes on the West End of the hangars will be poured soon. Asphalt is scheduled for June 15th. Work continued during the 4.33-inch rain event on Monday.

Master Plan Update

Hanson is moving forward with the task list.

Charleston Tourism Grant

Manager Fearn presented an application to the Board on Monday to request an Air Show Grant. \$1,500.00 was awarded.

Mattoon Tourism Grant

Manager Fearn will present a grant application to the tourism board on June 10th requesting \$7,000.00.

Fireworks Meeting

Manager Fearn, Administrative Assistant Billie Little, Maintenance Supervisor Bill White, and FBO Manager Doug Paige will meet with Mindy White of Mattoon Tourism and the Fireworks Committee on June 11th to finalize the Fourth of July Fireworks Event.

Airshow Meeting

June 9th at 5p.m. Waiver is in progress. Manager Fearn is making updates to the Emergency Plan that were suggested by the Air Boss and FAA.

FCC Licensing

Renewal approved. Expires in 10 years.

Flock Cameras

Shared with 137 departments statewide and 18 nationwide.

Civil Air Patrol

Scheduled for June 19th to June 27th.

Wildlife Hazards Training

Manager Fearn, Admin. Assistant Little, Maintenance Supervisor Bill White, Maintenance Technician Rod Symonds and FBO Line Technician Tate Little will have onsite training with the USDA Officers on June 17th. The Annual Training is a FAA Part 139 Requirement.

Interruptible Power

May 21st MTO ran on generators for two hours as required by contract.

Power Outage

Tuesday morning there was a power outage for several hours due to a lightning strike at the SBLHC substation. MTO ran on generators for the outage.

Harvest of Hope

Rural King contacted the Authority to secure dates to host the 2027 Harvest of Hope Concert at the Airport.

Operation Safe

Aerial Applicators- Operation Safe will be held June 15th-19th.

Webpage

713 visits, 1512 page views, and 55 engagements.

Facebook

264,944 views, 19,896 engagements, and 2602 interactions.

Commissioners' Comments and Questions

Chairman Nelson asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board Members. There were none.

Chairman Nelson reminded the board that an additional board meeting has been scheduled for June 17th to discuss the Airport Authority's Ordinance on Minimum Standards.

Adjournment

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

Sauget	Yes
Schaefer	Yes
Zimmer	Yes
Campbell	Yes
Nelson	Yes

Recorder