



## Rail Authority Meeting

**Thursday, August 22, 2024, 5:00 pm**

Chicago Rockford International Airport auditorium

60 Airport Drive, Rockford, IL 61109

### Minutes

**Members:** Paul Cicero, Chairman; Tom Myers, Vice-Chairman; Pat Agnew; Leslie West; Mike Schablaske; Jake Castanza; Dianne Parvin; Thomas Lester; Zack Oakley; Michael Dunn, Jr.

#### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Cicero at 5:30 pm

#### 2. Roll Call

#### 3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the Board.

#### 4. Consent Agenda

*a. Approval of February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

**Motion** by Commissioner Agnew, seconded by Commissioner Castanza, to **approve** the Consent Agenda.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

#### 5. Presentation on DCEO Site Readiness Grant Update

Mr. Dunn gave an update on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) application for a Site Readiness Grant to provide planning and infrastructure on a future rail-served industrial park south of the airport. The developer continues to be highly motivated in developing this site and plans are on track.

Mr. Dunn asked the board for authorization to negotiate with DCEO and enter into a grant agreement should the grant be awarded. It is likely that the Rail Authority will receive the grant and it is desirable to get funds to the developer as soon as possible. There was some discussion.

Mr. Dunn discussed specifics to the proposed Rail Authority budget. A budget creation was necessary, as the DCEO grant requires inclusion of the applicant's budget, which also informs the overall project budget. Mr. Dunn emphasized that in this budget, the airport does not pay anything to the Authority and R1 does not receive any funds from the Authority. Discussion followed.



Mr. Dunn also discussed the need to retain legal counsel for the Rail Authority for future business dealings. Discussion followed.

**6. Action: Approval of FY25 operating budget**

**Motion** by Commissioner Castanza, seconded by Commissioner Myers, to **approve** FY25 operating budget

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**7. Action: Approval of Resolution 2024-02**

**Motion** by Commissioner Schablaske, seconded by Commissioner Parvin, to **approve** Resolution 2024-02.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**8. Action: Approval of engagement letter for legal representation**

**Motion** by Commissioner West, seconded by Commissioner Parvin, to **approve** engagement letter.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Chairman Cicero, seconded by Commissioner Schablaske to **adjourn**.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided at all meetings. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.