

**GAINESVILLE-ALACHUA COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY**  
**Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Airline Terminal Board Room**  
**Monthly Meeting Highlights**

**Call To Order By the Chair:** Chair Kinnon Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Invocation:** Mr. Fugate delivered the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Posner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**GACRAA General Counsel:** Mr. Blake Fugate was present.

**Roll Call:**

Authority Members Present: Brian Crawford, John Hooker, Adrian Hayes-Santos, Wes Maul, Fred Posner, Brandi Renton, Staci Sims and Kinnon Thomas were present.

Teresa Callen arrived shortly after Roll Call.

Gainesville Chamber of Commerce Representative and Ex-officio member Ian Fletcher. was present. City of Gainesville liaison, Forrest Eddleton, was present.

**Determination of a Quorum:** A quorum was present at roll call.

**Approval of Monthly Meeting Highlights of February 26, 2026 and the Special Meeting Highlights of March 9, 2026.**

*Mr. Posner moved to approve the GACRAA Monthly Meeting highlights of February 26, 2026 and Special Meeting highlights of March 9, 2026. Dr. Hooker seconded the motion. Motion passed.*

**Citizens' Input – Non-agenda Items:** None

**Airport Authority Input – Non-agenda Items:** None

**Adoption of Agenda**

***Note: On March 26, 2026, an additional item, Approval of Proposed Commercial Sub-Lease Agreement between Ed and Nate Hangar, LLC and Jetwise, Inc, Resolution 26-014, was added as Agenda Item # 7.***

***Mr. Hayes-Santos moved to approve adoption of the modified agenda. Mr. Posner seconded the motion. Motion passed.***

**Airport Business**

**Information Items**

**Outbound Baggage Handling System Phase II**

Mr. Penksa reported that all site permits have been received and site work is underway. He indicated

that electrical conduits are being installed to an area pole and lighting is being installed. Also, he reported that a concrete pad for the dumpster enclosure is to be poured the week of March 23rd.

*Airport Master Plan Update and Storm Water Master Plan*

Mr. Penksa reported that an aerial survey has been revised to reflect obstruction removal work that occurred and the revised survey has been submitted to the FAA. He reported that the first chapter of the Stormwater Management Plan has been submitted to staff for review.

*New General Aviation Terminal*

Mr. Penksa reported that staff reviewed and commented on the 90% architectural drawings for the new GA Terminal. He reported that a meeting was held on March 20, 2026 with the St. Johns River Water Management District to discuss Issuance of a stormwater permit. He indicated that civil drawings are still being completed.

*Commercial Apron West Side Expansion*

Mr. Penksa reported that FAA approved the 90+% project drawings and has approved the project for bidding. He indicated that 100% bid documents and various bid alternates are being prepared by the consultant. He stated that a meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> to review the 100% drawings. He indicated that the bid date is set for April 5, 2026.

*Air Traffic Volume Report and Load Factor*

Mr. Penksa reviewed the Air Traffic Volume, Fuel Flowage and Load Factor reports for February 2026. He reported that all categories except for cargo were up over February 2025.

*TSA / Partial Government Shutdown Affecting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)*

Mr. Penksa reported that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have not been deployed at GNV. He reported that TSA workers at GNV have continued to show up for work during the partial shutdown. Mr. Penksa proposed initiating a program to provide gasoline on a fuel credit program to TSA personnel during the partial shutdown to help workers report for work. He noted that prior attempts to offer fuel assistance to TSA workers were declined by TSA management.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the types of assistance GACRAA could propose offering to TSA workers. Among the ideas suggested by GACRAA Board members were:

- Temporarily eliminate any fees changed by GACRAA to TSA workers, such as parking;
- Discounted fuel sales for automobiles;
- Sell fuel via a credit program with payment due after the shutdown ends;
- Grocery gift cards;
- Sponsor free meals from Tailwinds;
- Establish a food bank drop-off location.

***Mr. Hayes-Santos moved to provide the CEO with authority to initiate a fuel purchase credit program plus provide additional assistance of up to \$50,000 in grocery gift cards to TSA workers, at the discretion of the CEO. Ms. Sims seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.***

*Rasier-DC, LLC (Uber Technologies) Operating Agreement*

Mr. Penksa reported that Rasier-DC, LLC has not executed the Operating Agreement approved by GACRAA on January 22, 2026 despite repeated follow-up requests from staff for execution or comments pertaining to the agreement. He reported that Uber has continued to pay the fees that are due but has not provided feedback on the expectations regarding the conduct of the drivers and new staging area established due to the completion of the intermodal facility.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding whether to issue a cease-and-desist letter due to the lack of an executed agreement.

***It was the consensus of the Board to continue to follow-up with Uber and address the issue at the Board meeting in April.***

**Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant**

Mr. Penksa reported that the U.S. Department of Transportation recently opened an application window for applying for a SCASD grant. He stated that the application deadline ends in thirty-nine days (May 4, 2026). He reported that GACRAA was successful in receiving awards of SCASD grants on two previous occasions; GNV used those grants to support new non-stop service to Memphis with Northwest Airlines and non-stop service to Miami with American Airlines.

Mr. Penksa reported that the following information is needed to apply for a grant:

- A letter of support from an airline for a specific route such as:
  - GNV-DCA (American Airlines) **or**
  - GNV-IAD (United Airlines)
- Local match: airport and community
  - GACRAA incentives such as abatement of landing fees, exclusive use fees, reduced into plane fuel fees, and marketing support.

A brief discussion followed regarding the types of activities that can be funded by a SCASD grant. In general, grants can be used for revenue guarantees, marketing programs, airline start-up costs and studies. Mr. Penksa reported that a local match, from a combination of the airport and/or community, is required

***Mr. Posner moved to approve moving forward with the \$15,000 fee to hire air service development consultant, ASM, to prepare a SCASD grant application if a letter of support from an air carrier is obtained. Ms. Callen seconded the motion.***

In response to Mr. Hayes-Santos recommending asking the City, County and UF for support, Mr. Penksa stated that staff recommends soliciting \$250K to \$300K in support from the community in addition to letters of support from local biotech firms, Lockheed Martin in Ocala, and other large local employers.

Mr. Hayes-Santos recommended that the Board initiate a formal request for support from the City, County and UF.

***Mr. Hayes-Santos moved to amend the motion to include a formal request of \$100K each from the City of Gainesville, Alachua County Commission and University of Florida in local match to support the SCASD application. Ms. Callen seconded the amended motion. The amended motion passed.***

**Finance Report:**

CFO Matt Lyons provided the Finance Report included in the agenda for the month ending February 28, 2026.

|                         | Feb. 2026<br>Actuals | Feb. 2026<br>Budget | Variance<br>Over / (Under) |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Revenue                 |                      |                     |                            |
| Total Operating Revenue | \$857,096.77         | \$831,835.13        | \$25,261.64                |

| Expenses                          | Feb. 2026<br>Actuals | Feb. 2026<br>Budget | Over / (Under)     |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total Expenses                    | \$593,844.08         | \$614,480.35        | (\$20,636.27)      |
| <br>                              |                      |                     |                    |
| Income (Loss) Before Depreciation | <u>\$263,252.69</u>  | <u>\$217,354.78</u> | <u>\$45,897.91</u> |

**Mr. Maul moved to accept the Finance Report. Mr. Hayes-Santos seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**RFB # 26-002 Fuel Farm Rehabilitation Phase II Contract Award – Scherer Construction – Resolution 26-010**

Mr. Penksa reported that Resolution 25-010 is a contract award of the Fuel Farm Rehabilitation Phase II project to Scherer Construction of North Florida, the lowest responsive bidder. He stated that the bid tabs and consultant recommendation letter are included in the agenda package.

**Mr. Posner moved to adopt Resolution 26-010 authorizing execution of a contract with Scherer Construction of North Florida, LLC final design/build of fuel farm Jer-A tank replacement and fuel storage facility rehabilitation. Ms. Sims seconded the motion. A roll-call vote followed: Dr. Hooker – aye, Mr. Maul – aye, Mr. Posner - aye, Ms. Renton – aye, Ms. Sims – aye, Ms. Callen – aye, Mr. Crawford – aye, Mr. Hayes-Santos – aye and Mr. Thomas – aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Employment Contract between GACRAA and F. Paul Mehrlich – Resolution 26-011**

Mr. Penksa reported that Resolution 26-011 authorizes execution of an Employment Contract with Paul Mehrlich for the position of CEO.

**M. Posner moved to adopt Resolution 26-011 authorizing execution of an Employment Contract with F. Paul Mehrlich for the position of CEO. Ms. Sims seconded the motion. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Maul – aye, Mr. Posner - aye, Ms. Renton – aye, Ms. Sims – aye, Ms. Callen – aye, Mr. Crawford – aye, Mr. Hayes-Santos – aye, Dr. Hooker – aye and Mr. Thomas – aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

**PNC Bank – Banking Signatures – Resolution 26-012**

Mr. Penksa reported that Resolution 26-012 removes himself as a banking signatory effective April 13, 2026 and adds Paul Mehrlich effective April 13, 2026.

**Mr. Maul moved to adopt Resolution 26-012 authorizing the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of GACRAA and the CEO or his designee to act as signatories on the Authority’s bank accounts. Mr. Hayes-Santos seconded the motion. A roll-call vote followed: Mr. Posner - aye, Ms. Renton – aye, Ms. Sims – aye, Ms. Callen – aye, Mr. Crawford – aye, Mr. Hayes-Santos – aye, Dr. Hooker – aye, Mr. Maul – aye, and Mr. Thomas – aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

**FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement # 428830-1-94-26 Amendment 3 - Design and Construction of the Fuel Farm Expansion (Phase I) and Rehabilitation (Phase II) 3rd Year of Funding – Additional \$200K – Resolution 26-013**

Mr. Penksa reported that FDOT has approved a request of staff, to reallocate \$200K in funding from an airfield drainage improvement project to an existing grant for 3rd year of funding of the Fuel Farm Expansion and Rehabilitation project.

**Mr. Posner moved to adopt Resolution 26-013 accepting Amendment # 3 to FDOT PTGA #428830-1-94-26 adding \$200K to 3<sup>rd</sup> year of funding for the Fuel Farm Expansion (Phase I) and Rehabilitation (Phase II) project. Ms. Sims seconded the motion. A roll-call vote followed: Ms. Renton – aye, Ms. Sims – aye, Ms. Callen – aye, Mr. Crawford – aye, Mr. Hayes-Santos – aye, Dr. Hooker – aye, Mr. Maul – aye, Mr. Posner - aye, and Mr. Thomas – aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Approval of Proposed Commercial Sub-Lease Agreement between Ed and Nate Hangar, LLC and Jetwise, Inc. - Resolution 26-014**

Mr. Penksa reported that Ed and Nate Hangar, LLC, which shared in the cost of construction of building GA-37, has requested approval to sub-lease the hangar to Jetwise, Inc., an aviation business specializing in private charters, aircraft sales and management and repossession. He stated that Jetwise, Inc. would like to occupy the hangar on April 15, 2026. Mr. Penksa noted that Jetwise, Inc. will not offer any other aviation services without prior approval of the Board.

**Mr. Hayes-Santos moved to adopt Resolution 26-014 approving an application to operate as an aviation business specializing in private charters, aircraft sales and management and repossession by Jetwise, Inc. as a sub-lessee of Ed and Nate Hangar, LLC in its leased facility, hangar building GA-37. Mr. Maul seconded the motion. A roll-call vote followed: Ms. Sims – aye, Ms. Callen – aye, Mr. Crawford – aye, Mr. Hayes-Santos – aye, Dr. Hooker – aye, Mr. Maul – aye, Mr. Posner - aye, Ms. Renton – aye and Mr. Thomas – aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Tenant Report**

Ms. Pam Landis reported that the annual Gator Fly-In will take place on Saturday, March 28, 2026. She stated that Friday, March 27 is Media Day. She stated that military aircraft, such as A-10, C-130, T-6 and T-45 will arrive on Friday. In addition to static aircraft displays, a classic car display will be featured along with food trucks and an 11:00 a.m. opening ceremony recognizing and supporting the military and veterans.

**Airport Authority Input**

Mr. Hayes-Santos recommended publishing a press release regarding GACRAA's efforts to support TSA workers during the partial government shutdown.

**Adjournment**

**As there was no further business, Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.**

**GACRAA Monthly Meeting**

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Chair

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_

Date