



**Millville Executive Airport - Delaware River & Bay Authority**

*104 Leddons St., Millville, NJ*

May 8, 2025 – Noon

**"Draft" Minutes**

A meeting of the Cumberland Salem Cape May Workforce Development Board was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at the Millville Executive Airport in the Delaware River & Bay Authority building.

Those in attendance were:

**Workforce Development Board Members:**

Barbara Jones, Carey Italiano, Carol Musso, Cristina Chillem, Edward Geletka, Elizabeth Reed, Hugh McCaffrey, Katie Czajkowski (Alternate), Melissa Niles, Dr. Mike Gorman, Sherwood Taylor (Alternate), Susan Jurusz (Alternate), Trish Lyons (Alternate)

**Guests:**

**Benjamin Clendaniel** – Airport Operations Director, **Beth Smithson** - Big Sky Aviation, **Ceil Smith** - Delaware River & Bay Authority Director, **Doug Smithson** – Big Sky Aviation, **Dylan Wulderk**- CCIA Economic and Community Development Director, **Ed Ramsey**- Salem County Commissioner (liaison), **Jaime Gomez** - Cumberland County Division Director, **Raji Ramachandra**- NJ Department of Labor, **Rebecca Iacovone** – Salem County Board of Social Services, **Stephen Serrano** – Atlantic City Electric

**Staff:**

Amanda Barnes, Anthony Bontempo, April Gomez, Christy DiLeonardo, Cindy Angelo

**Public Representation:**

Dawn Hunter, Jerry Velazquez, Nancy Ridgway

Christy DiLeonardo called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. beginning with the flag salute followed by the reading of the Open Public Meeting Act. Prior to the start of presentations Christy made everyone aware that although proper procedures were followed, beginning in January, we have not received a resolution to appoint or reappoint two members to the Board. The members belong in two categories that are required by legislation - one from Economic Development and the other from the Private Sector. Due to this, the board is no longer in compliance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Christy requested approval of the minutes for the February 6, 2025 meeting.

2025 February 6 Minutes

**1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Mike Gorman**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Edward Geletka**

**Vote Passes**

**Presentations:**

Benjamin Clendaniel, Director of the Delaware River & Bay Authority, spoke about the history of the airport and its role in WWII serving as a location where pilots received flight training and training in the P-47 Thunderbolt. Today, it is a hidden gem in the county that continues to serve and support workforce development and economic development in the county.

He mentioned that West Star Aviation, which also offers Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services at Millville airport, decided to begin their own workforce training academy out West.

Beth Smithson, from Big Sky Aviation, was introduced as the next speaker. Big Sky Aviation runs a flight school as well as hires graduates who need to meet their time requirements. These graduates then move on to find employment with airlines. Big Sky also serves as a first point of contact for pilots landing in Millville, providing them with concierge services and maintenance services for their aircraft.

Ceil Smith, the Deputy Executive Director of the DRBA – No state or federal money is used. The bridge supports the budget for everything they do.

#### **Public Comment on Agenda Items only**

Public did not have any comment on the agenda.

#### **Financial Updates-** (Reports in Packet)

Christy DiLeonardo – Reviewed the report for the PY 23-24 and PY24-25 funds. She noted that 23-24 funds for WIOA will be ending in June. We have been making strong progress in spending down these funds. The WFNJ funds ended in December 2024, these funds were not fully spent. For PY 24-25 – We are on track to spend the 24-25 WIOA funds down. WFNJ used for individuals on public assistance. Have until June 30, 2025 to spend these funds.

Adult Literacy Innovation- In the process of putting out an RFP for virtual reality training in trade occupations. At the end, participants will receive a credential. This tool will be valuable for customers to conduct Career Exploration prior to entering an occupational training.

#### **Subrecipient Updates-** (Reports in Packet)

April Gomez- Presented the Financial Report Summary handout covering Youth and Career Services Subrecipients. Career Services funds are 2 year funds; have begun spending 24-25 funds. In and Out of School Youth programs –Enrollment ended on March 31, 2025; report shows the final number each vendor enrolled.

#### **Old and New Business**

One Stop Operator - RFP in process. Notification will go out once the approval occurs by resolution.

Out of School Youth RFP's - are out for Cumberland, Cape May, and Salem

Career Services RFP - Salem County recently released

NJDOL – DRAFT POLICIES – Draft policies for forthcoming for our August board meeting for approval.

#### **Public Comment**

Nancy Ridgeway- Wished Cindy Angelo the best in her retirement.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was requested to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Mike Gorman and seconded by Carey Italiano. The meeting ended at 1:35 pm.