

OGDENSBURG BRIDGE AND PORT AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022 - 4:00 PM

I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairperson Vernon D. Burns at 4:00 PM.

II. Letters and Communications to the Board.

III. Approval of Board Minutes:

-May 19, 2022

IV. Reports

Presentations and Reports:

1. Committee Reports:

a) Finance Committee

2. Reports:

a) Income/Expense Report

b) Bridge Traffic Report

c) Airport Activity/Occupancy Report

d) Port Activity Report

e) Building Occupancy Report

f) Industrial/Commercial Prospect Report

V. Unfinished Business. None.

VI. Business Items.

A. General Administration

None.

B. Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge

None.

C. Commerce Park

1. Approval of Lease Supplement No. 7 with Corning, Inc.

2. Approval of Lease Supplement No. 3 with Lincare

D. Ogdensburg International Airport

None.

E. Port of Ogdensburg

1. Approval of Lease Agreement with Woodcrest Dairy, LLC

F. Other Such Matters

VII. Concluding Comments from Citizens, Board Members, and/or Authority Staff.

VIII. Next Meeting Dates:

July 14, 2022	Thursday	4:00 PM	_____	(Proposed)
August 16, 2022	Tuesday	4:00 PM	_____	(Proposed)
September 15, 2022	Thursday	4:00 PM	_____	(Proposed)
October 13, 2022	Thursday	4:00 PM	_____	(Proposed)
November 15, 2022	Tuesday	4:00 PM	_____	(Proposed)
December 15, 2022	Thursday	4:00 PM	_____	(Proposed)

IX. Adjournment

Dated: June 3, 2022



Steven J. Lawrence  
Executive Director

/amg

Ccs

Board of Directors:

Mr. Vernon D. "Sam" Burns, Chairperson  
Ms. Megan J. M. Whitton, Vice Chair  
Mr. Christopher B. T. Coffin, Treasurer  
Mr. David King, Secretary  
Ms. Jennifer Quirk-Pickman, Member  
Ms. Nicole Terminelli, Member  
Ms. Toni Kennedy, Member

Staff:

Mr. Steven J. Lawrence, Executive Director  
Ms. Patricia A. Nisco, CFO  
Ms. Stephanie Saracco, Airport Manager  
Mr. Anthony Adamczyk, Dir of Economic Development  
Mr. Robert F. Mujica, Jr., Division of the Budget  
Ms. Karen Persichilli Keogh, Secretary to the Governor

Press:

Mr. Tom Graser, WDT  
Ms. Monica Sandreczki, North. Country Public Radio  
Ms. Dawn Merz, Radio Station WNCQ/WPAC  
Mr. Keith Benman, WWNY TV-7  
Mr. Jimmy Lawton, North Country Now  
Mr. Jim Leven, Community Broadcasters

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
*as of April 30, 2022*

Current Assets:		①
Cash - Checking Accounts	\$ 234,378	
Cash - Reserves & Other Restricted Accounts	1,192,359	
Cash - Security Deposits	7,508	
Accounts Receivable	263,478	
Grants Receivable	7,642	
Investments	0	
Inventories	69,827	
Prepaid Expenses	25,358	
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 1,800,550</u>	

Fixed Assets:	
Land & Land Improvements	\$ 46,674,655
Buildings & Building Improvements	108,711,370
Machinery & Equipment	8,255,163
Vehicles	1,523,092
Furniture & Fixtures	142,506
Signage	181,132
Bond Issuance Costs - 2017 Series	200,883
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 165,688,800
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(70,569,804)</u>
Net Fixed Assets	<u>\$ 95,118,997</u>

Other Assets:	\$ 1,545,621	②
Construction in Progress	\$ 10,253,894	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 108,719,062</u></b>	

Current Liabilities:		③
Accounts Payable - Regular	\$ 622,888	
Accounts Payable - NYS Retirement	169,280	
Accounts Payable - All Project A/P	63,506	
Current Portion of Long Term Debt	1,138,870	
Accrued Expenses	22,529,881	
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 24,524,425</u>	

Other General Liabilities \$ 146,153

Long Term Liabilities	
Long Term Portion of Long Term Debt	9,957,630
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 9,957,630</u>

Capital \$ 74,090,854

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** **\$ 108,719,062**

## NOTES

Restricted Accounts - Top 5 Bank Accounts	
Debt Service Reserve Fund - Wilmington Trust	499,872
Tompkins Trust Security Reserve Deposit	366,723
M&T Deposit-Bond Payment Reserve Funds	252,298
Consolidated Reserve Fund - CBNA	44,437
PFC Account	14,005

1,177,335

② 8 Additional Restricted Bank Accounts share the balance 15,024

Construction in Progress - Top 4 Projects	
Harbor Deepening Project	7,171,877
Airport MASLF	1,860,034
Airport EA PH 1 Drainage & Terminal Area	417,433
Airport Terminal Project	216,507

9,665,851

③ 4 Additional Projects share the balance 588,044

Regular Accounts Payable - Top 5 Vendors	
OMLC - Wind Turbine Projects	116,604
Auburn Crane - Wind Turbine Projects	99,120
E-Transit - Maintenance Fees	87,991
Comptroller City of Ogdensburg	63,761
Wladis Law Firm	38,193
Excellus - Health Insurance	30,798

436,467

79 Additional Vendors share the balance 186,421

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY: APRIL 2022 BUDGET TO ACTUAL**

**INCOME**

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Monthly <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>
Bridge Revenue	240,499	199,127	(41,372)	240,499	199,127	(41,372)
Airport Revenue	33,627	25,040	(8,587)	33,627	25,040	(8,587)
Airport Revenue - Fuel Sales	15,270	30,066	14,796	15,270	30,066	14,796
Industrial Park Campus Revenue	79,610	77,223	(2,387)	79,610	77,223	(2,387)
Marine Terminal (Port) Revenue	33,043	39,400	6,357	33,043	39,400	6,357
Railroad Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wind Turbine Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>402,049</b>	<b>370,857</b>	<b>(31,192)</b>	<b>402,049</b>	<b>370,857</b>	<b>(31,192)</b>

**EXPENSES**

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Monthly <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>
<b>BRIDGE EXPENSE</b>						
Salary Expense	110,540	82,206	(28,333)	110,540	82,206	(28,333)
Employee Benefits	57,862	50,616	(7,246)	57,862	50,616	(7,246)
Maintenance Expense	5,185	9,428	4,243	5,185	9,428	4,243
Bridge Maintenance Expense	3,333	2,611	(722)	3,333	2,611	(722)
Utility Expense	5,168	4,770	(397)	5,168	4,770	(397)
General Expenses	49,401	45,108	(4,293)	49,401	45,108	(4,293)
Legal Expense	6,500	(18,486)	(24,986)	6,500	(18,486)	(24,986)
<b>TOTAL BRIDGE EXPENSES</b>	<b>237,989</b>	<b>176,255</b>	<b>(61,734)</b>	<b>237,989</b>	<b>176,255</b>	<b>(61,734)</b>

**AIRPORT EXPENSE**

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Monthly <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>
Salary Expense	27,861	20,669	(7,192)	27,861	20,669	(7,192)
Employee Benefits	11,308	15,402	4,095	11,308	15,402	4,095
Maintenance Expense	4,421	2,079	(2,342)	4,421	2,079	(2,342)
Fuel Sales Expense	16,500	1,324	(15,176)	16,500	1,324	(15,176)
Utility Expense	5,217	2,969	(2,247)	5,217	2,969	(2,247)
General Expenses	35,714	64,648	28,933	35,714	64,648	28,933
Interest Expense	42,777	43,361	584	42,777	43,361	584
Legal Expense	5,000	0	(5,000)	5,000	0	(5,000)
<b>TOTAL AIRPORT EXPENSES</b>	<b>148,798</b>	<b>150,453</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>148,798</b>	<b>150,453</b>	<b>1,656</b>

**INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPENSE**

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Monthly <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>
Salary Expense	1,308	2,452	1,144	1,308	2,452	1,144
Employee Benefits	455	245	(210)	455	245	(210)
Maintenance Expense	1,358	951	(407)	1,358	951	(407)
Utility Expense	2,849	3,925	1,075	2,849	3,925	1,075
General Expenses	3,213	9,028	5,815	3,213	9,028	5,815
Interest Expense	0	515	515	0	515	515
<b>TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPENSES</b>	<b>9,183</b>	<b>17,115</b>	<b>7,932</b>	<b>9,183</b>	<b>17,115</b>	<b>7,932</b>

	Monthly <u>Budget</u>	Monthly <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>	YTD <u>Budget</u>	YTD <u>Actual</u>	Over/ <u>(Under)</u>
<b>MARINE TERMINAL (PORT) EXPENSE</b>						
Salary Expense	29,005	11,987	(17,018)	29,005	11,987	(17,018)
Employee Benefits	12,857	15,617	2,760	12,857	15,617	2,760
Maintenance Expense	9,544	19,307	9,763	9,544	19,307	9,763
Utility Expense	3,427	3,169	(258)	3,427	3,169	(258)
General Expenses	24,795	96,975	72,180	24,795	96,975	72,180
Interest Expense	0	184	184	0	184	184
Legal Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL MARINE TERMINAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>79,628</b>	<b>147,238</b>	<b>67,611</b>	<b>79,628</b>	<b>147,238</b>	<b>67,611</b>
<b>WIND TURBINE EXPENSE</b>						
Salary Expense	20,950	9,025	(11,925)	20,950	9,025	(11,925)
Maintenance Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0
Management & General Expenses	115,987	111,071	(4,916)	115,987	111,071	(4,916)
<b>TOTAL WIND TURBINE EXPENSES</b>	<b>136,937</b>	<b>120,096</b>	<b>(16,841)</b>	<b>136,937</b>	<b>120,096</b>	<b>(16,841)</b>
<b>RAILROAD EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BORDER STATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>612,534</b>	<b>611,157</b>	<b>(1,377)</b>	<b>612,534</b>	<b>611,157</b>	<b>(1,377)</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME (Net Gain/(Loss))</b>						
CRRSA/ARPA ACT Reimbursements	0	(240,300)	(240,300)	0	(240,300)	(240,300)
<b>OPERATING INCOME (Net Gain/(Loss))</b>	<b>(210,485)</b>	<b>(240,300)</b>	<b>(240,300)</b>	<b>(210,485)</b>	<b>(240,300)</b>	<b>(240,300)</b>





Passenger Activity Report  
2022

	Flights	Enplaned	Flt. Load	Non Rev.	Flt. Load	Deplaned	Non Rev.	Total
Jan	45	608	27%	19	28%	620	23	1270
Feb	38	758	40%	14	41%	699	13	1484
March	31	703	45%	15	47%	657	22	1404
April	33	557	33.75%	18	34.84%	793	10	1378
May	47	851	36.00%	35	37.70%	882	30	1798
June								
July								
Aug								
Sept								
Oct								
Nov								
Dec								
2022 Total	194	3477	36%	101	37%	3651	98	7327
2021 Total	613	10292						
2020 Total:	548	4279						
2019 Total:	806	12115						

2020 Enplanements with Allegiant 8944  
2019 Enplanements with Allegiant 22438

	Flights	Enplaned	Flt. Load	Deplaned	Total
2020	41	4665	64%	4774	9439
2019	84	11268	76%	17561	28829





Airport Occupancy Report

Facility	Total SF	Airport	Rentable	Occupant	Expiration	Rate	
ARFF/FBO		100%	0%	OBPA	N/A		
Conventional Hangar	3672 interior		3668 3.5 S.F.	OBPA SITA	N/A 5/6/22 renewed annually	\$500 mo	
GSE Building	5978 interior	2989	2989	Skywest OBPA	3/31/2024	\$1,500 mo.	
T-Hangars	11550 exterior	956 S.F.	10,594				
			Hangar #1	Robertson	9/30/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #2	Frank Richardson	7/31/2021	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #3	Fred Proven	8/31/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #4	Jim Phillips	9/30/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #5	Mark Mueller	8/31/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #6	Pete Bogardus	8/31/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #7	Steven Williams	6/14/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #8	Bird Tate Jr.	12/31/2022	\$215 mo	
			Hangar #9	Timothy Burtch	10/31/2022	\$215	
			Hangar #10	Frank Richardson	4/19/2021	\$215 mo	
		478		OBPA			
		478		OBPA			
Terminal Building	10800		440	TSA			
			558	Skywest	3/31/2024		
			2913	Public/Utility	N/A		
			5919	Per Turn/Public	3/31/2024		
			126	Concession	unoccupied		

Updated 6/2/2022



**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY**  
**BUILDING OCCUPANCY REPORT**  
 June 7, 2022

**Commerce Park Campus**

<i>Building</i>	<i>% Occupied</i>	<i>Total SF</i>	<i>Available</i>	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Tenant</i>
1	100%	30,000	0	7,356	Lincare
				7,658	Strader Ferris
				3,626	AB Thermal Technology
				1,148	ISRU
				500	West End Asset Management
				424	Miracle Ear / Quality Hearing
				187	Nova Networks
				240	Clarkson University
				103	LiveFast Motors
				8,758	Non-Rentable
3	100%	15,000	0	10,000	NAC Logistics
				4,860	AN Deringer
				140	Non-Rentable
4	86%	20,000	2,871	1,235	Day Automation
				8,660	Anda Medical
				128	KDM Analytics
				850	5G Technologies USA, Ltd
				4,920	AN Deringer
				1,061	T-Base Communications
				275	Non-Rentable
6	100%	30,000	0	28,825	Strader Ferris
				1,175	Non-Rentable
11	100%	40,000	0	20,000	Artik/OEM
				20,000	Canexsys
12	100%	11,200	0	8,776	T-Base Communications
				2,424	NYS Legal Service
14	100%	24,000	0	23,220	Med-Eng
				780	Non-Rentable
	98%	170,200	2,871	167,329	

**Bridge Administration Building**

<i>Suite</i>	<i>% Occupied</i>	<i>Total SF</i>	<i>Available</i>	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Tenant</i>
BAB	100%	5,284	0		
103				536	OBPA Economic Development
104				1,054	SUNY IT
201A				120	Demers, Inc.
201B				140	Cortech/Penski
201C				368	Mack Global Engineering
204				1,689	Stephens Media Group
205				207	Griffith/Lambert
206				182	Griffith/Lambert
207A				170	Dan Dodge
207B				220	OBPA Executive Director
208				126	Barbara Pleet
209				180	Knudsen Systems
210				292	Glenda Jones
	100%	5,284	0	5,284	

**Port of Ogdensburg**

<i>Building</i>	<i>% Occupied</i>	<i>Total SF</i>	<i>Available</i>	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Tenant</i>
P2	100%	30,000	0	30,000	Compass Minerals/Thawrox
P3	100%	20,000	0	19,607	Grain Storage
				393	NYOG Office
P4	100%	15,000	0	15,000	Corning
P5	33%	40,000	26,667	13,333	Grain Storage
P6	100%	20,000	0	20,000	Grain Storage
P8	100%	23,000	0	23,000	Grain Storage
	82%	148,000	26,667	121,333	

**Airport**

<i>Building</i>	<i>% Occupied</i>	<i>Total SF</i>	<i>Available</i>	<i>Occupied</i>	<i>Tenant</i>
Terminal	100%	10,800	0	10,800	TSA/SkyWest
Hangar	100%	3,672	0	3,672	Used for OGS Equipment Storage
T-Hangar	100%	11,550	0		
1				1,036	Robertson
2				1,108	Richardson
3				1,036	Proven
4				1,036	Phillips
5				1,036	Mueller
6				1,036	Bogardus
7				1,036	Williams
8				1,036	Tate Jr.
9				1,108	Unoccupied
10				1,036	Richardson
				1,046	Mechanical / Operations Storage
	100%	26,022	0	26,022	

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY  
JUNE 7, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

**Agenda Item C. Commerce Park**

**1. Approval of Lease Supplement No. 7 with Corning, Inc.**

**REPORT:**

Staff has negotiated Lease Supplement No. 7 with Corning, Inc. for 15,000 square feet of commercial warehousing space in Building 4 at the Port of Ogdensburg for a one (1) year period commencing September 1, 2022 and terminating August 31, 2023 at a rate of \$2.58 per square foot, equaling \$3,225.00 per month, \$38,700.00 per year including utilities. Corning, Inc. shall have the right to terminate this Lease upon ninety (90) days written notice to the Authority. Corning, Inc. shall have the first option to renew this Lease for a period of no less than one (1) year provided such intent to exercise option is made by May 1, 2023. Corning, inc. shall also be given a period of thirty (30) days to cure a default for lack of payment.

All other terms and conditions of the original Lease Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and affirmed.

**RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute Lease Supplement No. 7 with Corning, Inc. for 15,000 square feet of commercial warehousing space in Building 4 at the Port of Ogdensburg for a one (1) year period commencing September 1, 2022 and terminating August 31, 2023 at a rate of \$2.58 per square foot, equaling \$3,225.00 per month, \$38,700.00 per year including utilities, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Corning, Inc. shall have the right to terminate this Lease upon ninety (90) days written notice to the Authority, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Corning, Inc. shall have the first option to renew this Lease for a period of no less than one (1) year provided such intent to exercise option is made by May 1, 2023, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Corning, inc. shall be given a period of thirty (30) days to cure a default for lack of payment, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of the original Lease Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and affirmed.

INITIATOR/PREPARER: Anthony Adamczyk/A.M. Grabetz APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION PASSED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Unanimous: Yes  No

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstained By: \_\_\_\_\_

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY  
JUNE 7, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

**Agenda Item C. Commerce Park**

**2. Approval of Lease Supplement No. 3 with Lincare, Inc.**

**REPORT:**

Staff has negotiated Lease Supplement No. 3 with Lincare, Inc. for 7,356 square feet of commercial office space in Building 1 at the Commerce Park Campus for a five (5) year period commencing January 1, 2022 and terminating December 31, 2026 at the rates outlined in the table below:

Time Period	Price per SF	Monthly Lease Payment	Annual Lease Payment
01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022	\$5.96	\$3,653.48	\$43,841.76
01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023	\$6.11	\$3,745.43	\$44,945.16
01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	\$6.26	\$3,837.38	\$46,048.56
01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025	\$6.42	\$3,935.46	\$47,225.52
01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026	\$6.58	\$4,033.54	\$48,402.48

Lincare, Inc. is responsible for its pro-rated share of all utilities.

All other terms and conditions of the original Lease Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and affirmed.

**RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute Lease Supplement No. 3 with Lincare, Inc. for 7,356 square feet of commercial office space in Building 1 at the Commerce Park Campus for a five (5) year period commencing January 1, 2022 and terminating December 31, 2026 at the rates outlined in the table below:

Time Period	Price per SF	Monthly Lease Payment	Annual Lease Payment
01/01/2022 - 12/31/2022	\$5.96	\$3,653.48	\$43,841.76
01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023	\$6.11	\$3,745.43	\$44,945.16
01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024	\$6.26	\$3,837.38	\$46,048.56
01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025	\$6.42	\$3,935.46	\$47,225.52
01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026	\$6.58	\$4,033.54	\$48,402.48

and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Lincare, Inc. is responsible for its pro-rated share of all utilities, and be it;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of the original Lease Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and affirmed.

INITIATOR/PREPARER: Anthony Adamczyk/A.M. Grabetz APPROVED BY: 

MOTION PASSED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Unanimous: Yes  No

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained By: \_\_\_\_\_

**OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY  
JUNE 7, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

**Agenda Item E. Port of Ogdensburg**

**1. Approval of Lease Agreement with Woodcrest Dairy, LLC**

**REPORT:**

Staff has negotiated a Lease Agreement with Woodcrest Dairy, LLC for approximately 42 acres of vacant land, consisting of 14 acres east of Acco and approximately 28 acres on Wagner Road, for a period commencing May 1, 2022 and terminating November 30, 2022 at a rate of \$40 per acre or \$1,680.00 for the lease period.

In addition, the lease gives the Authority the option to cancel the lease with sixty days' notice should the need arise that a major industrial project requires the acreage.

Also included in this agreement is the requirement for Woodcrest Dairy, LLC to provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage to the Authority, naming the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority as an additional insured.

**RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute a lease agreement with Woodcrest Dairy, LLC for approximately 42 acres of vacant land, consisting of 14 acres east of Acco and approximately 28 acres on Wagner Road, for a period commencing May 1, 2022 and terminating November 30, 2022 at a rate of \$40 per acre or \$1,680.00 for the lease period and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the lease gives the Authority the option to cancel the lease with sixty days' notice should the need arise that a major industrial project requires the acreage and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Woodcrest Dairy shall provide proof of appropriate insurance coverage naming the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority as an additional insured.

INITIATOR/PREPARER: Anthony Adamczyk/A.M. Grabetz APPROVED BY: 

MOTION PASSED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Unanimous: Yes  No

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained By: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Ogdensburg airport getting 12 weekly flights to/from Philadelphia starting July 1

By ANDY GARDNER

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May 18, 2022



Contour Aviation CEO Matt Chaifetz stands in front of an Embraer ERJ-145 aircraft at Ogdensburg International Airport Wednesday. Christopher Lenney/Watertown Daily Times

**OGDENSBURG** — Starting July 1, Ogdensburg International Airport will offer 12 weekly round-trip flights on Contour Air 30-passenger jets to and from Philadelphia International Airport.



Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority and Contour officials held a Tuesday morning news conference to announce the new flights. There will be two daily flights, with one flight daily on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Contour Air CEO Matt R. Chaifetz said passengers will be able to reach 19 U.S. destinations from Philadelphia. He said it takes about an hour to get to Philly from Ogdensburg.

“We’re very excited to be here and thank the community,” he said.

Mr. Chaifetz said Contour Air takes jets that hold up to 50 passengers and removes some of the seats so all 30 passengers have “first-class leg room.” The cabin is set up with a single row of seats on the left side, and two rows on the right side. The windows are oriented so all seats have a decent view, even in the aisles.

Passengers can book flights to Philadelphia on Contour’s website for an introductory rate for the next 30 days. Anyone who needs to go beyond Philadelphia will have to use American Airlines’ website to book tickets.

Local lawmakers also attended the announcement event and said getting back to 12 weekly flights could be a big boost to the local economy.

“It’s obviously a great thing for the community and north country people who live here,” said St. Lawrence County Legislator Joseph R. Lightfoot, R-Ogdensburg. “This will fill a huge void” in local air service created when the current Ogdensburg carrier, Skywest, announced they would pull out of the city airport and went down to just four round-trip flights per week.

“I think they’ll be successful when Canadian traffic picks up,” said Ogdensburg City Councilor John A. Rishe, who is also the OBPA’s former director of commercial and economic development. He added that for local economic improvement, “it’s important to have a reliable airline.”

St. Lawrence County Legislator James E. Reagen, R-Ogdensburg, said he’s hoping the airport will be able to use Contour’s lower fares to attract Canadian passengers from Ottawa who may otherwise pay higher rates flying out of the Canadian capital.

“This is a huge magnet to attract Canadians into the greater Ogdensburg area and St. Lawrence County,” he said. “We are uniquely positioned by being just 45 to 50 minutes away from the heart of Ottawa, which has 1 million people in it.”

“If we can get the word to those people how much money they can save ... they’ll come flocking here,” he added.

Booking a ticket from Ottawa to Philadelphia using Google’s airline ticket feature shows rates starting over \$300 for July. Contour’s website has tickets available for the same time period, from Ogdensburg to Philadelphia, for \$69.

Andy Gardner



## Tentative deal with Contour Air signals new air service for O'burg

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI  
North Country This Week

OGDENSBURG — Ogdensburg International Airport has a new air service provider on tap with the announcement that a tentative deal has been struck with Contour Airlines.

Officials say the contract is for 27 months of service beginning July 1, though the official start date of flights is floating as Contour and Skywest work on a handoff of services.

"Right now we do have a deal in place and have agreed to terms but we are still waiting on the grant information and paperwork from the Department of Transportation before we can finalize the deal," said Steve Lawrence, OBPA Executive Director.

Flights with Contour will all be direct flights to Philadelphia on 30 passenger jets, maintaining the quality of service flyers have come to expect in recent years, officials say.

The service will be provided through the Alternative Essential Air Service Program.

Under the AEAS, airports are funded directly and are allowed to use the funding at their own discretion for air service they deem appropriate and suitable.

The change in service comes after months of debate and conjecture between the OBPA and Skywest, who announced in January that they were going to cease providing United Express flights to Washington DC from Ogdensburg.

At the time, Skywest claimed staffing issues and limited passenger numbers led to the decision based on financial projections which presented an unsustainable business model.

Local officials scoffed at the announcement, with OBPA Board Chair Sam Burns being one of the harshest critics of Skywest at the time.

"We're certainly not pleased with that news. We feel we've done everything to fulfill our part of the EAS contract," he said during a March meeting.

"We have a contract with SkyWest that provides a certain level of service. Obviously they're not holding up their end. It's not something we're pleased with. It's very little we can do at this point," he continued.

Officials at the time said that SkyWest had failed to live up to the contract in place, which is subsidized with tax-payer dollars through the Essential Air Service program.

Senator Chuck Schumer and Congresswoman Elise Stefanik both rallied the Department of Transportation on behalf of Ogdensburg International Airport to ensure normal service would continue with Skywest until a suitable replacement could be found.

View Full Story at: <https://www.northcountrynow.com/business/tentative-deal-contour-air-signals-new-air-service-oburg-0320034>  
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# New airline flying from Ogdensburg to Philadelphia



By [Zach Grady](#)

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TOWN OF OSWEGATCHIE, New York (WWNY) - There's something new on the tarmac at Ogdensburg International Airport. A new airline will get you to a new destination, but it's the same service you can get out of Watertown.

"This is going to provide access for people in Ogdensburg and greater Ogdensburg area to fly anywhere in the US at a reasonable price," said St. Lawrence County Legislator James Reagen (R. - District 1).

Contour Airlines announced Wednesday morning that it will be providing service from Ogdensburg International Airport to Philadelphia.

"Everyone is excited. We've been waiting for months now to get this announcement," said Stephanie Saracco, airport manager.

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The carrier is part of American Airlines and will make 12 trips a week to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"We always look for communities for which service to an American Airlines hub makes sense. Moving service from Washington D.C. that's currently branded as United over to Philadelphia, where folks can continue to have access to one of the nation's largest carriers, I think was a recipe for success," said Matthew Chaifetz, CEO, Contour Airlines.

The announcement comes as part of a federal grant program. After SkyWest's departure, the airport recently received \$11 million to attract a new airline.

"This will give us the opportunity to be the Ottawa region's second airport," said Reagen.

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Though airport officials are hoping to be the first choice when it comes to air travel in the north country, Watertown's airport also offers a daily flight to Philadelphia through American Airlines.

"I think that there's always a little bit of competition. But I think the flights, the flight times are a little bit more conducive to our community," said Saracco.

"Ottawa and Ogdensburg are just a 45-minute straight shot, you know, across the bridge directly to the capital of Canada. Those people don't drive to Watertown," said Reagen.

The airline CEO sees it as a win.

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“I think the schedule of flexibility afforded by effectively doubling the amount of service to and from the region is actually a big win for the community,” said Chaifetz.

The first flight is scheduled for July 1.

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## OBPA awaits decision from state on reallocating money from suspended harbor project

By ANDY GARDNER  
agardner@wdt.net  
Jun 1, 2022



The cargo ship MV Ronnie with a load of wind turbine blades is ushered into the Port of Ogdensburg by the tugboat Madison R. on April 27. Christopher Lenney/Watertown Daily Times

OGDENSBURG — The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority is waiting to hear if \$5.8 million from New York state originally slated for the suspended harbor deepening project can instead be used to extend a Port of Ogdensburg dock.

In April, the OBPA board passed a resolution acknowledging that financial difficulties are preventing it from moving forward on the \$29.5 million harbor deepening project that was initially estimated at \$11.4 million. Between the federal funding and a portion contributed by the state Department of Transportation, there's an \$11.4 million gap that the OBPA would have to cover, which it can't afford. The project would have modified a 300-by-500-foot section of the federal channel to an authorized depth from 19 feet to 27 feet.



Part of that money is \$6.1 million from the state DOT that the OBPA in turn gave to the Army Corps of Engineers. OBPA Executive Director Steven J. Lawrence said about \$300,000 of it was spent on bid work and design. The corps will return the remaining \$5.8 million to the OBPA, which will either give the money back to the state or spend it on the dock expansion, depending on what the DOT decides. The dock expansion would extend a 1,200-foot dock by another 50 feet, which would make more space for ships to load and unload.

“When that money comes back to us ... we'll ask the state what they want to do with it,” Mr. Lawrence said. “The state's been more than helpful on all our projects. They stepped in at the last minute with this (original amount of) \$6.1 million and (the harbor deepening) didn't happen.”

He says the OBPA is in the process of planning to move forward with the dock work.

“We hope to get started on the dock expansion this year,” Mr. Lawrence said.

He said they're now coming up with cost estimates to see if \$13.2 million, most of which is committed grant funding, will cover the entire project.