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Authorities Budget Office Issues Report of the Monroe County Airport Authority

The New York State Authorities Budget Office (ABO) today issued its final report on the procedures and controls over expenditures at the Monroe County Airport Authority (Authority). The review was initiated in part based on recent reports of inappropriate purchases made by the former Airport Director.

The ABO's report is critical of the Authority's board of directors. The ABO found that the board provides little financial oversight of airport operations, generally deferred management and policy decisions to the county, and failed to follow its own procurement policies. The ABO questions whether the current board is capable of providing the necessary financial and management oversight and recommends that the members be replaced by the County Executive.

The report noted that some policies were revised by the board to better control credit card purchases and travel and business expenses, but additional improvements are still needed. For example, the ABO found that travel costs incurred by the former Airport Director routinely exceeded pre-approved limits, yet he was never questioned why or asked to justify these additional expenses. In addition, the report identifies over \$12,000 in overpayments to professional services contractors and notes the process often followed in selecting contractors was inconsistent with criteria provided to potential vendors. The ABO also recommends that the Authority reassess the need to provide cell phones to contractors, and criticizes the Authority for making financial contributions or providing services to support various events unrelated to the mission and purpose of the Authority. Such payments are in apparent violation of an opinion issued by the State Attorney General. None of these concerns would be addressed by the policy changes adopted by the Authority.

A copy of the report may be obtained at: www.abo.state.ny.us