



## MINUTES OF MEETING

### JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD

February 10, 2022

The Airport Board met in the board room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:01am.

#### **Item 1: Roll Call and Approval of minutes from the last meeting.**

Board members attending included Bob Loudermilk, Fred Osborn, Rob O'Brian and Kelli Starkweather. Randy Moore and Mike Bently attended via phone. Richard Russell was absent. Staff present included Steve Stockam, Melissa Hunter, Peter Kaufmann of Airport Operations and Brent Williams of Airport Police. Also attending was Kris Zerkle of the Joplin Flyers and Jack Schaller from Olsson Associates.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Osborn moved to approve the December meeting minutes. Mr. Loudermilk seconded. All were in favor.

#### **Item 2: Old Business**

Mr. Stockam began by addressing the board regarding construction progress on Runway 18-36. The walkthrough was completed for everything except electrical. Mr. Stockam added that Peter Kaufmann, Airport Operation Supervisor, did an outstanding job with organizing the project. There was concern with beads in the runway paint not meeting Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards. During a recent FAA inspection, it was determined that the painting would need to be redone. The concern is the paint appears to be striped during the nighttime hours. Mr. Stockam added that we will send some airport operations staff members to an airport painting school to get certified with bead painting for future projects. Mr. Stockam presented a slide to the board presenting a night view of Runway 18 approach to show the new LED lighting which he noted are really bright. Mr. Stockam stated that we had our first snow event of the season and everything went well with the new concrete runway. He stated that we are pleased overall with the project and it is no comparison to what we had before. Emery Sapp is still moving equipment and rocks from the staging area. Reseeding will be held off until spring. Mr. Stockam added that the PAPI's will be moved by the FAA and the flight check has been completed as well.

Next Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding our monthly traffic report. January and February numbers are always the lowest of the year, but we were in decent shape through the holidays. The resurgence of COVID in January made it a tough month system wide. He added that the schedule through March shows several days with just one flight. The crew shortage was critical during COVID

times, and the majors are using pilots and crews from the regional carriers. Last week SkyWest issued a request to the FAA to reduce flights at some essential air service airports, but Joplin was not included in the reduction request, so we are fortunate. The March flight adjustment will also aid SkyWest in rotating aircraft through for maintenance. Mr. Stockam stated that the Denver flight will be important for spring break. On a positive note, New York has lifted their mask mandate. It appears like Chicago may follow in March. Mr. Stockam added that it is disappointing not to see the Houston flight back on schedule yet. Hopefully, it will be back for summer, he added. The major carriers are about 10% below the 2019 seat capacity. We hope to be back to 2019 numbers by June or July. However, the fuel barrel is forecasted at \$125 for April 1<sup>st</sup>. That may affect ticket pricing, but we have stayed competitive with no huge jumps in fares according to Mr. Stockam. Mr. Osborn asked which markets will see a reduction in services from SkyWest. Mr. Stockam replied Dodge City KS, Hays KS, several cities in Nebraska, Cape Girardo as well as Fort Lenardwood MO. Mr. Stockam added that our airline manager got sick and resigned so our temporary airline manager is in from New York.

### **Item 3: New Business**

Mr. Stockam presented slides to the board showing our Capital Improvement Schedule. The list included the 2022 design for the Airport Fire Fighting and Rescue building (ARFF) and the Design of the Snow Removal and Equipment building (SRE). Initially we planned to build these together, but now they will be separated. The SRE building will be near the general aviation (GA) end of the airport with the ARFF building being closer to the commercial terminal and in a more centralized location. Other items on the list are a generator for the commercial terminal, the airport master plan, and air traffic control tower equipment as Mr. Stockam noted that the current equipment is nearly 40 years old. Another item is the Pavement Management Plan Update which is required by the FAA every three years. This year they will focus on Runway 13/31 overlay. In 2023 the plan is to construct the ARFF and SRE buildings as well as design the mill and fill project on 13/31 and construction. There will be additional funds in the project to address exceptionally large cracks in the 13/31 runway according to Mr. Stockam. This will need some additional evaluation. More items discussed were the hold room expansion, design of taxiway Foxtrot and apron extension along with construction. Also, an environmental assessment and planning for the Runway 18-36 extension. We hope to extend the 18/36 runway in 2027 with a parallel taxiway and install a Runway 18-36 localizer.

Next Mr. Stockam addressed the board concerning developing the observation area along the entrance road. He would like a concrete pad with the airport layout painted on for playing as well as a handicap accessible deck to view over the fence with a shelter and picnic area. He added that this would be a private development but maintained by the airport. The T-33 recently donated to the Freedom of Flight Museum will be on display. Mr. Osborn asked how much parking would be available. Mr. Stockam replied 12 spaces. Ms. Starkweather expressed concern with the need for fencing around the entire area since it is adjacent to the highway.

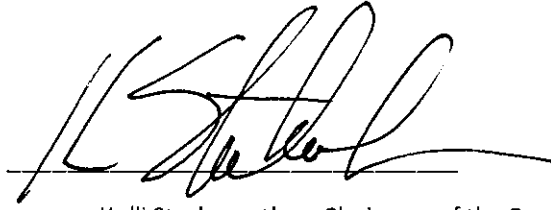
Mr. Stockam informed the board regarding the upcoming bid opening for ADA ramp construction on the GA terminal

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00am.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

Melissa Hunter, Administrative Assistant

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Starkweather", written over a horizontal line.

Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board