

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**JOPLIN AIRPORT BOARD MEETING**  
**May 13, 2021**

The Airport Board met in the board room at the at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Aviation Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 A.M.

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

Board members attending included Mike Bentley, Fred Osborn, Bob Loudermilk, Kelli Starkweather, Rob O'Brian. Randy Moore attended via phone and Richard Russell was absent. Staff present included Steve Stockam and Melissa Hunter. Also attending was Shannon Hoffman from Olsson Associates, Brian Jones from Missouri Southern State University and Kris Zibert from Joplin Flyers.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. O'Brian voted to approve the April meeting minutes. Mr. Loudermilk seconded. All were in favor.

**Item 2: Old Business**

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the upcoming Reconstruction of Runway 18-36. He stated that we are set to go for construction. The Airport Operations personnel have been working on ancillary items such as mowing and painting of runway 13-31 in preparation for it to be our only runway. The contractor is blacking out the lead lines, putting up barricades and marking in preparation for the closure of runway 18-36 as well. Mr. Stockam stated that construction access points are being made using millings from the south end. He added that more millings will be hauled to the north end to extend an access road to a detention area. The concrete plant will be located north of the terminal building. He continued to describe current construction preparation using an arial map. He stated that they plan to have the concrete plant up and running prior to the intersection coming out. Mr. Osborn inquired about the main terminal entrance road needing to be resurfaced after the project completion. Mr. Stockam stated that the entrance road was built to a heavy level, almost 18 inches. He added that we will monitor it, but we don't anticipate any issues other than in turning radius locations. Runway 13-31 will be our primary runway during construction according to Mr. Stockam, but when the construction is complete, 18-36 will be the main runway. He added that we will change some grading, by raising the intersection by almost 20 inches. That is why we must mill back Runway 13-31 to such a great distance to prevent a hump. This will look different from the ramp and for planes taxiing out. Mr. Stockam stated that the Columbia airport didn't correct the profiles during their last construction and had to have an additional shut down to correct the issue. He added that we don't want that issue in Joplin. Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly spent six months vetting the plan with the Federal Aviation Administration to prevent having issues. Mr. Osborn asked how far back we will mill 13-31. Mr. Stockam replied that it will be just over 300 feet on one side and just under that on the other side. Mr. Bentley stated that it will affect takeoff for many planes if this isn't a grooved runway any longer. Mr. Stockam

replied that the percentage of grooved portion of the runway will still be enough for the runway to be considered grooved. Mr. Stockam added in 2024 there is a plan in place to mill and fill 13/31 and we will probably remove all the grooves at that time. Mr. Stockam stated that the construction is visible from Highway 171 and the General Aviation Terminal and we have been fielding questions already since the lighted x's are currently visible.

Next, Mr. Stockam spoke to the board regarding the recent painting on runway 13-31. He stated that the FAA requires us to have the runway painted every other year and painting must be removed every other painting cycle. He added that even with our limited flight schedule this month, it has been very busy. NOTAM's are out about the closure and notifications have been made the tenants. Ms. Starkweather asked if we thought about putting up a sign on the highway about upcoming construction. Mr. Stockam stated there are regulations about where you can put signs. He added that the observation area has been opened for construction vehicles and onlookers have taken the opportunity to stop in to watch planes. Mr. Loudermilk asked if there have been any further issues with the stop sign on the new entrance road. Mr. Stockam stated that we have not yet. Mr. Stockam stated that we need to open an observation area after the construction is complete, perhaps next winter. He added that the Goodyear blimp plans to stop in for fueling on May 26<sup>th</sup> and then stop for an overnight a few weeks later. We had three Black Hawk helicopters here earlier this week as well. Mr. Bentley and Ms. Starkweather agreed that there are several civic groups that would love to take a part in the observation area planning and completion.

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

Next, Mr. Stockam provided an update on the airline change over. He said everything is going well, but not as smoothly as we had hoped. The American Airlines (AA) lease goes through May 31 and corporate AA doesn't want to allow SkyWest into their space until after that date. Most of the wiring is complete and will be based on wireless communications. He added that he attends a conference call every other Wednesday with SkyWest and everything is going as scheduled and on time. United has purchased all the counters from American Airlines and we have reached out to John Hipple with Sign Designs to cover the wood look with gray vinyl. United has asked us to move the inaugural event back to June 4<sup>th</sup> to allow signage installation to complete the branding. This will move the ribbon cutting, refreshments and water cannons back to the first flight in from Chicago on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will make this a small affair to keep within COVID restrictions. Mr. Stockam spoke about ticket sales from United so far. We are one month out and is surprising that Houston is our biggest market with Denver being second and Chicago third. He added that a lot of Chicago is still closed due to COVID and that probably affects ticket sales to that area. July is booking at 75% for all three stations according to Mr. Stockam. With 9,000 seats available in June, that means that we will average about 6,000 passengers through the terminal that month. TSA announced they had 1.6 million passengers through last week, which is a record since the pandemic began. All the major carriers announced new international markets opening with restrictions. Mr. Loudermilk stated that the Houston flight being our top seller in June was interesting since Springfield offers that same flight. Mr. Stockam added that there will still be some people who will be upset about AA leaving because they have unused miles.

Mr. Stockam told the board about the upcoming Business Expo. We were given 6 tickets to giveaway for the event. Additionally, SkyWest has a full staff of 12 in currently in training. Mr. Stockam is speaking at area events to get the word out regarding the changes. We put out our second full page ad in the Joplin Globe along with radio ads and billboards being completed. Mr. Osborn said that MSSU was exited about having the Chicago flight available again. They have many students traveling in from there.

Mr. Jones told the board about a United Mileage app that can really help save money when booking tickets. Mr. Loudermilk stated that he likes the Houston sticker on some of the billboards because it stands out. Many people don't understand that AA is going away still. Additionally, there is confusion about the airport closure in July.

Ms. Starkweather suggested that we prepare flyers to hand out at the Business Expo containing information about the improvements, closure, progress, and flights available. Mr. O'Brian posted one of the reverse ads on his LinkedIn and had a large response. He believes it is already affecting the market. We will have a greater window of opportunity for conferences in Joplin since we have a 3-hub market now.

Mr. Bentley asked about the Request for Proposals for the GA Terminal Building. Mr. Stockam stated that the health department plans on occupying the space until the end of June and we are using part of the space as a United staging area. After those are complete, we will advertise the space.

Mr. Stockam added that we have began the budget process and there are no surprises so far. We plan on including plans to design a new Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) / Snow Removal Equipment building. He added that he was in support of the new gas tax and he appreciates our state representatives stepping up to get that done. Missouri was far behind other states and the money will be used for replacing bridges and infrastructure. It will help the city and airport as well.

Mr. Stockam added that MSSU is developing a new training program with the fire department and that is exciting. We hope to include ARFF training in that program someday as well.

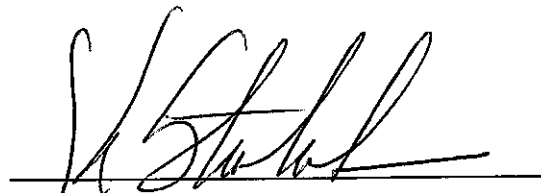
Mr. O'Brian voted to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Loudermilk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 am.

Approved,



Melissa Hunter, Airport Clerk



Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board