

MINUTES OF MEETING
JOPLIN AIRPORT BOARD MEETING
September 9, 2021

The Airport Board met in the board room at the at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:02 A.M.

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

Board members attending included Bob Loudermilk, Kelli Starkweather, Rob O'Brian, Fred Osborn, Mike Bentley and Richard Russell. Randy Moore attended via phone. Staff present included Steve Stockam and Melissa Hunter. Also attending was Brian Jones of Civil Air Patrol and Shannon Hoffman of Olsson Associates.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Loudermilk voted to approve the August meeting minutes. Mr. Bentley seconded. All were in favor.

Item 2: Old Business

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the construction progress on Runway 18-36. He stated that the Charlie taxiway shut down schedule has been moved back. We have the base rock for the north end through the intersection ready and plan to begin that section next due to mild weather forecasts. The Federal Aviation Administration inspector arrived yesterday to begin navigational aid work. Mr. Stockam added that the 18-day forecast only predicts a high potential of rain on 2 days. It will take 8 days of paving to complete the north end. We are still on schedule to have the project completed by November 1 according to Mr. Stockam and the paving will be complete by October 1.

Item 3: New Business

Mr. Stockam provided the board with an airline update and traffic report. As anticipated, he stated, the traffic has slid back a bit. Everyone across the board has pulled their schedules back. We anticipated strong business travel after Labor Day, however, travel has been affected by the Delta variant. He added that the first half of the month was strong with a lot of leisure travel. We expect the Denver market to bounce up with the leisure market this fall. Ms. Starkweather asked if ticket pricing remained competitive. Mr. Stockam replied that he would keep an eye on it. Mr. Stockam added that Denver was our best market for August followed by Chicago and Houston. Most major companies will not open travel up until after the first of the year according to Mr. Stockam. SkyWest seems flexible and will meet demand as it's needed, he added. Mr. Jones stated that Thanksgiving is typically the largest travelling holiday of the year. Mr. Osborn added that the City of Joplin website shows current COVID information and current hospitalization numbers. Mr. Stockam stated that the international markets could drop down again. Everyone is hunkering down and waiting until 2022 according to Mr. Stockam. Mr. Russell asked if the European market has pulled back. Mr. Stockam replied yes, about 50% as well as restricting the unvaccinated.

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the General Aviation (GA) Terminal Lease agreement. The agreement was approved by the City Council on Tuesday. Mizzou is taking up all the classroom space on the south side. The Airport Operations office will move right off the ramp with a conference room on the north side. We plan to make the ARFF building a true fire station. The other office space on the north side is needed by the Freedom of Flight Museum. Mizzou Aviation will move their testing center out of the basement and the Civil Air Patrol will make that basement space their office which they needed according to Mr. Stockam. The Civil Air Patrol now has a plane in Joplin that they will share with Springfield. As the Civil Air Patrol has more planes coming on, we hope to show we are flying a lot. The airport is also providing them with a hangar space. Mizzou Aviation will take possession of the GA terminal space immediately he added. The City of Joplin has approved ADA ramp work to begin on that building in the next fiscal year. We would like to have the new entrance ready before the restaurant opens according to Mr. Stockam. Mr. Russell asked what modifications will need to be made for the restaurant. Mr. Stockam relayed that Wayne Adolphsen projected an anticipated expense of \$150,000.00. Mr. Stockam added that Mr. Adolphsen asked for permission to fuel aircraft in the general ramp area. Mr. Stockam stated that would be no problem. Liberty Utility has installed a new transformer by the GA terminal, and they are awaiting delivery of new lighting for the parking area. He added that we would like to get architectural drawings completed for the ADA ramp right away.

Mr. Stockam told the board about a new bag screening device TSA (Transportation Security Administration) is receiving similar to what is in larger airports. It weighs approximately 7,000 lbs. and will be installed running toward the back wall on the south side of the pillar behind the ticket counter. It will be installed even with the counter except the conveyor will protrude. One counter will be removed for the machine. Mr. Stockam added that SkyWest has enough space to add another station at their current counter if needed. There will still be another station available for charter flights as well. Mr. Stockam stated that the airport will not be responsible for the cost of this new equipment unless modifications are needed to the airport building.

Mr. Stockam informed the board of two open positions at the airport. He added that the Fire Department presented to the City Council that their number 2 priority is to build a fire station at the airport and take over ARFF operations. Their consultant made a recommendation for that. Mr. Stockam stated if that were to occur, the Federal Aviation Administration would need to be involved. In the next fiscal year, we will begin the project to design a new ARFF and snow removal station. Mr. Loudermilk asked if the FAA would have the final say. Mr. Stockam replied that the interim fire chief used to be the chief at KC airport, so he understands the regulations of working with an airport fire station. In Mr. Stockam's opinion, there would be a cost savings, but it would take a lot of organization between departments to make it happen.

Mr. O'Brien motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Russell.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 am.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Hunter", written over a horizontal line.

Melissa Hunter, Airport Clerk

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelli Starkweather", written over a horizontal line.

Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board

