



MINUTES OF MEETING

JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD

April 14, 2022

The Airport Board met in the board room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 12:15pm.

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

Board members attending included Fred Osborn, Rob O'Brian and Kelli Starkweather, Randy Moore, Mike Bentley, and Richard Russell. Bob Loudermilk was absent. Staff present included Steve Stockam, Melissa Hunter, Peter Kaufmann of Airport Operations and Lynden Lawson, Assistant Director of Public Works. Also attending was Jack Schaller from Olsson Associates, Brian Jones of Civil Air Patrol, Darryl Coit of Freedom Flight Museum.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. O'Brian moved to approve the March meeting minutes. Mr. Russell seconded. All were in favor.

Item 2: Old Business

Mr. Stockam began by showing appreciation for Kelli Starkweather's service to the Airport Board. He stated that we appreciate her input, and she did an excellent job as airport chairperson, and this will be her last meeting.

Next, Mr. Stockam updated the board regarding the airline extension. He stated that some of the 29 cities will only get bids from smaller airlines such as 9 passenger jets. Our consultant sent out packets to five airlines to advertise Joplin's positives.

United placed an order for 39 ERJ75's and had to look to regional airports for pilots. They choose to fly larger aircraft for economic reasons. The new deadline for Essential Air Service (EAS) Bids will be May 11th. The Department of Transportation (DOT) will send the bids out to the community for a 30-day comment period. It will then take a few more weeks for the DOT to plan beyond that. Mr. Stockam added that it takes at least 90 days (about 3 months) to move stations. That means we are looking at a change from late fall to early winter. United will fill responsibilities at the Joplin Regional Airport (JLN) until a suitable replacement is found. Mr. Russell asked if American Airlines (AA) would be interested in returning to JLN. Mr. Stockam replied that AA only serves 3 EAS cities and two of them are located where AA has maintenance bases.

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the observation area. The board viewed a new layout which moved the play area between the pavilion and fence and the observation area to the corner. Mr. Stockam suggested he forward the approved plans on to Crawford Murphy and Tilly to begin cost estimates. Mr. Bentley added that the drawings are missing from the fence. Mr. Stockam stated that the fence would be added as part of the aircraft. Mr. Osborn asked who would provide security for the area. Mr. Stockam stated that the police department often sits in that area overnight. He added that the airport would handle maintenance. Ms. Starkweather suggested that we add a curfew and sign. Mr. Stockam agreed. Ms. Starkweather suggested a committee be created to develop ideas for fundraising. Ms. Starkweather, Mr. Osborn, and Mr. O'Brian expressed interest in being involved.

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding his retirement transition plan. Day-to-day functions would be handled by Peter Kaufmann and Melissa Hunter. Mr. Stockam signed off on the final FAA project grants just before the meeting began. Now we will just wait for grants to be issued, he stated. The 4 projects are the Pavement Management Plan, Terminal Area Master Plan, Snow Removal and Equipment Building and Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Building. The board will need to provide input for the location of the ARFF building and adjustments to the terminal building. The Transportation Security Administration just installed a monster machine taking up a quarter of the ticket counter space which they will begin to use next week. Mr. Stockam added that our boarding bridges are 30 years old. They still work but need updates.

Mr. Lawson addressed the board regarding airport manager applicant status. We have received 6 applicants and the interview process will begin next week. He added that we will be looking for an extrovert who can speak professionally with the state legislature, experience, and a varying college degree as well.

Mr. Stockam spoke about his fulfilling experiences as the Joplin Regional Airport Manager over the past 30 years. Also discussed were the differences at the airport then and now. Mr. Stockam added that the airport has brought 65 million in federal tax dollars to this facility and how greatly that improves the local economy. This facility brings over 3 billion per year to the community and it is a misconception that it is all about air service. There has been great growth in the educational community with a few thousand kids touring the airport annually through the Freedom of Flight Museum. Our staff has grown by custodians and airport police department that enables us to bring a higher level of customer service. Mr. Russell commented that Mr. Stockam has a vast skillset of accomplishments.

Item 3: New Business

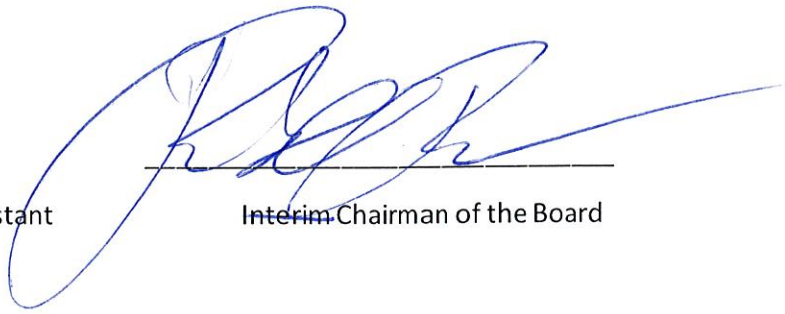
Mr. Stockam advised the board to think about where we want the airport to go to in the future. We are at a place where we have infrastructure funding to support projects. The observation area and the signal light for the General Aviation entrance road need to be discussed. We would like to promote additional services and revenue for the airport with our biggest need being hangars. That is the only way for the airport to grow. Mr. Moore asked if there was a private interest in building hangars. Mr. Stockam stated that it would be an investment to be discussed with banks regarding leased property. Mr. Moore added that it might be another area to begin a committee. Mr. Osborn, Mr. O'Brian, and Ms. Starkweather agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

Approved,

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

Melissa Hunter, Administrative Assistant

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and difficult to decipher.

Interim Chairman of the Board