MINUTES OF MEETING

JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD

March 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 7:00am.

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 Bentley. 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, Jack Schaller from Olsson Associates, Brian Jones of Civil Air Patrol, Darryl Coit of Freedom Flight Museum, and Charles Mullere of Twisted Wrench Aviation.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Item 2: Old Business

Mr. Stockam began by addressing the board regarding construction progress on Runway 18-36. He stated that we are cleaning up a few items. We recently underwent the electrical inspection, and everything looks good. We have plowed snow a few times on the new runway at it went well. We will be re-grading and seeding close to April 1st to get good germination, he added. There was a discrepancy in the paint standards which required a heavier painting to hold the beads. A re-painting will be required as part of the Runway 18-36 Reconstruction project to meet the Federal Aviation Administration standards. That will be at no cost to the airport. Mr. Bentley asked if the painting could be completed at night, so it does not interfere with air traffic. Mr. Stockam replied that it was important to have it completed during daytime hours so we can verify it is done correctly. We are waiting for a flight check on the PAPI's but the new runway is looking great according to Mr. Stockam. This project created the opportunity for our airport to win the project of the year paving award, he added.

The ADA ramp for the General Aviation terminal bid came in higher than expected at $89,000. Mr. Lawson is searching for additional funding in the city budget to cover the cost because it is important to get this project completed. There was only one bidder, stated Mr. Stockam.

Mr. Stockam informed the board about a new x-ray baggage machine soon to be installed behind the ticket counter for the Transportation Security Administration. That will be no cost to the airport.

Item 3: New Business

Mr. Stockam advised the board that United Airlines recently filed termination paperwork on 29 cities. That puts Joplin back in the Essential Air Service bidding process again. He added that everyone is shocked by this news. SkyWest states due to pilot shortage, they have determined other flight lines to be more important. They will abide by the Essential Air Service Rules and the April, May and June schedules will remain intact. Mr. Stockam added that this re-bid process could take over a year. He will be reaching out to the Department of Transportation regarding the 2nd bidder from last year. For now, we will continue to operate as is. The airline can only increase fares so much and oil futures continue to increase, he added. Otherwise, our numbers are turning up according to Mr. Stockam. Historically January and February are our worst months. Spring break numbers are looking good. We have a full schedule as of April 1st, he added. American Airlines (AA) will be a target to return to Joplin. Fortunately, we left that relationship well. Ms. Starkweather asked if AA might be interested in re-bidding. Mr. Stockam replied, if they do, costs will change due to oil prices. Joplin and Sioux City Iowa are the top two performing airports on the list. Ms. Starkweather replied that it would be nice to have Dallas back. Mr. Stockam replied that Chicago has been nice, but Denver has done surprisingly well too. Ms. Starkweather inquired if there might be any other airlines interested. Mr. Stockam answered that some smaller airlines might be interested such as Spirit. Mr. Stockam followed up to say that it will be at least six months before we figure out where we are at with this change.

Next Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the Observation Area. He displayed a rendering created by our consultant and added that the plane would be a separate expense. This is a preliminary layout he added. Mr. Osborne stated that there does not appear to be enough space. Mr. Stockam added that we plan to move a portion of the fence back so there will be more space than it appears. Ms. Starkweather expressed concern with the need for a fence as well as a rubberized play area instead of concrete. Mr. Osborne said that it should be an observation area, not a playground. This will focus on people who want to watch planes. Mr. O'Brian stated that the observation deck should be arranged with a view to the south as well as the north so you can see the approach. Mr. Coit announced that there has been progress with the plane repair through Banks Engineering and Twisted Wrench Aviation, volunteers, and Civil Air Patrol cadets.

Mr. Stockam informed the board regarding his upcoming retirement on April 15th. He will be leaving the city to work with Olsson Associates in Joplin as an Aviation Consultant. He added that Peter Kaufmann and Melissa Hunter will handle the daily operations until a new airport manager is appointed. There are four upcoming projects that Mr. Stockam will ensure are underway before he leaves. The design of the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Buidling, the Snow Equipment Removal Building, the Pavement Management Pland and the Terminal Area Master Plan. Mr. Stockam wishes to enter into an advisory contract through Olsson Associates to assist the airport during the transition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00am.

Approved,

Melissa Hunter _____

Melissa Hunter, Administrative Assistant

~~Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board~~
Peter Kaufmann, Airport Ops Supervisor