Joplin Regional Airport
602 S Main Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801
417-623-0262

Joplin Regional Airport Board Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Joplin Regional Airport Board met in the Administrative Conference Room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal on Thursday, May 14, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Brian Jones at 7:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

A. Board Members
   1. Brian Jones
   2. Tom Christensen
   3. Brett LaForest
   4. Joshua Oathout
   5. Tom Robertson
   6. Kris Zibert
   7. Michelle Steverson

B. Staff
   1. Airport Manager – Allison Zahner
   2. Operations Supervisor – James McBryde - Virtual
   3. Administrative Assistant – Cristy Short
   4. Public Works Assistant Director – Jeremy Hagerman - Virtual
   5. Airport Police – Brent Williams

C. Other
   1. Olsson – Steve Stockam – Virtual
   2. Louise Secker

MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved to approve minutes from the April board meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Zibert and unanimously approved.

MEETING

Ms. Zahner provided an update on ongoing projects. The Runway 13/31 rehabilitation project update included discussion of items previously left open due to weather conditions. Most actions have now been completed, including final grading, backfilling of select areas, and repainting. The Airport will continue repainting activities on Runway 18/36 using the same contractor under an extension of the contract. This work is not associated with the rehabilitation project and is intended to improve pavement markings and maintain compliance requirements.

Ms. Zahner confirmed the Passenger Boarding Bridge project is moving forward and staff is working with the contractor on the potential early removal of both disabled bridges. It was also noted that ground loading during inclement weather has not hindered passenger counts.

Joplin Regional Airport
602 S Main Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801
417-623-0262

Discussion turned to the North Perimeter Road project. Construction bids have been received and are currently being evaluated. This project will run in two phases due to grant funding and scale of the project. There is a substantial washout area that requires a lot of filler material and construction piping to keep drainage away from airfield areas while allowing accessible perimeter route.

Next, Ms. Zahner provided a detailed recap of the FY 2026 Capital Budget and strategic priorities, including exterior brick work to address terminal leaks, flooring replacement in the Airline Operations area, additional zero-turn mower, replace an aging 12-foot trailer, and critical software upgrades for training, access control and badge systems. These software upgrades were discussed during the annual 139 FAA inspection and are expected to improve staff training, strengthen compliance tracking, and enhance badging and security processes.

The board discussed FY 2027 key initiatives presented by Ms. Zahner. Discussion included FAA compliance efforts, airfield asset management of lighting, signage, and related components, and ARFF equipment maintenance and replacement needs to support ongoing Part 139 compliance.

Ms. Zahner then presented preliminary FY 2027 budget planning considerations and discussed anticipated budget requests. Board members reviewed the general budget categories, major projects, and associated justifications, and engaged in discussion regarding priorities, funding needs, and implementation. Board members expressed general support for the planning efforts and the proposed budget priorities as presented.

Board members began discussion on the Future of JLN by reviewing prior roundtable minutes and action items. Mr. Jones asked each member to prioritize goals for the roundtable. The Board continued discussion on identifying and refining priorities related to future airport initiatives and opportunities. The discussion included methods for incorporating advisory input from local and government sources; consideration of commercial opportunities; leakage analysis to better understand community and traveler needs; potential development of STEM-focused activities; and creating opportunities to connect the community with the Freedom of Flight Museum while supporting the museum's long-term sustainability. Discussion of the Freedom of Flight Museum included a reminder that the museum board is actively seeking replacements for Darryl and Darlene Coit in anticipation of their retirement. Darryl serves as President and oversees museum operations, while Darlene serves as Communications Director and supports a wide range of museum activities.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Zibert, and the motion carried unanimously at 7:23 A.M.

Brian Jones, Chairman

Cristy Short, Administrative Assistant