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

CALL TO ORDER

The Airport Board met in the Conference Room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal building on August 14, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Jones at 7:00 am CT.

ROLL CALL

A. Board Members
   a. Brian Jones – Chairman
   b. Mike King
   c. Josh Oathout
   d. Brett LaForest
   e. Tom Christensen
   f. Tom Robertson

B. Staff
   a. Airport Manager – Allison Zahner
   b. Operations Supervisor – James McBryde
   c. Administrative Assistant – Cristy Short
   d. Assistant Public Works Director – Jeremy Hagerman

C. Other
   a. Freedom of Flight Museum – Stephen Murray
   b. Olsson – Steve Stockam

MINUTES

Mr. Oathout moved to approve minutes from the July board meeting. This was seconded by Mr. King, and it was unanimously approved.

MEETING

Given the presence of new board members, Ms. Zahner provided an overview of the capital improvement projects. The presentation covered both current and upcoming projects, associated costs, and relevant grant funding that has been awarded or is anticipated to support these initiatives.

During this update, Ms. Zahner also provided a progress report on the runway 13/31 rehabilitation project. She noted that the project is proceeding smoothly, with 77 of 140 days completed and an expected completion date of October 14. A 14-day nightly closure of both runways will be scheduled in September to allow contractors to work at the intersection. Specific dates will be determined and announced in advance. These closures will not affect commercial flights, and a NOTAM will be issued to inform pilots of the temporary runway closure.

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The Airport Board reviewed the monthly flight report and held a discussion regarding recent flight cancellations. Ms. Zahner reported that a meeting had been held with the airline to address the causes of delays and cancellations. It was mentioned that passenger volumes have returned to pre-COVID levels, and the airline is working to better accommodate this demand by ensuring additional standby aircraft are available, particularly in response to summer travel volumes for which they were initially unprepared. It was also noted that the airport will collaborate with the airline to develop a monthly report detailing flight delays and cancellations, which will be shared with the Board moving forward.

Additionally, Ms. Zahner informed the Board that the airport's air service consultant is currently conducting a leakage study. Once completed, the consultant will present the findings in person at a future board meeting, during which Board members will have the opportunity to ask questions related to air service.

Ms. Zahner presented a proposed internship task checklist for the Board's review. The checklist is designed to guide future interns through assigned responsibilities, with designated staff members signing off upon completion of each task. The framework is based on successful internship models implemented at other airports. The proposed structure follows a 12-week format, though options for implementation are still being explored. The Board also discussed challenges related to offering unpaid internships and considered potential ways to support interns despite the lack of financial compensation.

The Airport Board continued its discussion on the future of Joplin Airport, with a focus on strategic planning. Topics included airport profitability, stakeholder needs, and how the Board can collectively move forward with a structured planning process. At the next Board meeting, a comprehensive list will be compiled from previous surveys, stakeholder meetings, and tabletop exercises. This list will summarize tenant and stakeholder concerns, suggestions, and future aspirations for the airport. The Board will use this information as a foundation for developing strategic priorities and potential initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. King motioned to adjourn. This was seconded by Mr. Christensen and the motion carried unanimously at 8:00 am.

Brian Jones, Chairman

Cristy Short, Admin. Assistant