MINUTES OF MEETING
JOPLIN AIRPORT BOARD MEETING
October 8, 2020

The Airport Board met in the Second Floor Board Room at the at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:01 A.M.

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

Board members in attendance included Richard Russell, Kelli Starkweather, Mike Bentley and Fred Osborn. Bob Loudermilk, Rob O'Brian and Randy Moore were absent. Staff present included Steve Stockam, Melissa Hunter and Brent Williams. Glenn Piacentini and Jason Flynn attended from Mizzou Aviation.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Russell voted to approve the September meeting minutes. Mr. Bentley seconded. All were in favor.

Item 2: Old Business

Mr. Stockam informed the board that the **Dennis Weaver Drive Construction Project** is almost complete. Liberty Utilities set the new meter base for the entrance road lights and everything should be hooked up by mid-next week.

The Goodyear Blimp stopped into re-fuel on Sunday. There wasn't much of an observation area. There are plans to add an observation area later. It will have to be a public-private partnership stated Mr. Stockam. We do want to open that back up, but right now, there hasn't been an opportunity with the construction. Ms. Starkweather asked if we would need to move the fence for the observation area or is there enough room now. Mr. Stockam replied that we would need to move some old fencing in that section. We received an updated aerial photo recently. Mr. Stockam discussed changes to the airport that have occurred since our last aerial photo in 2016. He pointed out a good placement for a future observation area. Mr. Bentley stated that we recently discussed the parks department handling the new observation area. Mr. Stockam agreed, and the Freedom Flight Museum was interested as well. Mr. Stockam likes the observation area at Riverside Airport in Tulsa. The flight club at that airport sponsored it and sold bricks in the pathway to fund it. The airport provided a radio frequency for the park. Additionally, a handicapped elevated ramp to a pavilion was built. Ms. Starkweather asked what a ballpark cost would be. Mr. Stockam replied that it would probably cost around $10,000 and that depends on how large you make it. The elevated platform would be the most expensive part, but it is important so you can see over the fence. The Riverside Tulsa airport also has a concrete pad with the runway painted on it. Now that we have the road

complete, we will see if we can raise money to move forward for this project. Sometimes there is some enhancement funds available with Mo-Dot stated Mr. Stockam. The fence will probably be something we have to do out of airport money. Mr. Russell said that doesn't sound like much money in the overall scheme of things. Ms. Starkweather stated that the Rotary might support this. Mr. Russell suggested that Liberty Utilities might support this as well. Mr. Osborn stated that would also appeal to the handicapped side of things. Mr. Stockam agreed that since we have the road complete, we can move forward with this. Ms. Starkweather stated that the brick selling works well in her opinion, and Mr. Osborn agreed.

Mr. Stockam spoke about the grant acceptance for the **reconstruction of runway 18-36** and the reimbursable agreement was sent to council. We have set the date on the airport closure. Mr. Stockam informed the board that July 23rd through Aug 1st of 2021 will be the closure dates. We needed to tell the proposed airline he added. It is a long way off, but we will begin to coordinate with everyone. That will be a Friday evening to a Monday morning he added. Mr. Russell asked if we would inform the general aviation folks as well. Mr. Stockam stated that we would update everyone closer to the date. He added that the project is on task for now. We anticipate the second phase of money will probably come in March. One good thing is that everything we have seen with the appropriation money; all will be 100% according to Mr. Stockam. We have coordinated the navigational aids with the Federal Aviation Administration, and they will do some updates during the closure as well. When we get ready to open the runway a year from now, everything should be new and up to date. It will be the same configuration, but it will be concrete stated Mr. Stockam. Other than that, we have our fall maintenance going on currently and final mowing has begun. We are completing final touchup paint for 13/31 since that will be our only runway for about 6 months next year. As far as the airfield is concerned, we are in good shape added Mr. Stockam. We have an RSAT meeting in the spring, there are a few new items added to the list. Mr. Russell asked if we will put LED lights on the temporary runway. Mr. Stockam replied that we will have all new LED's on 18/36 and will be one of the first airports to have LED runway lights in our area. Mr. Russell asked if we still have a need to extend the runway. Mr. Stockam stated that we do, the design of this runway includes a 600 ft. extension. We will not build it at this time, but it will be prepared for that in the future. Mr. Stockam stated the commercial air carrier was the justification on the extension needs, but those needs have changed, and it is not such a high priority. Justification will need to be done again before the extension would be completed.

Next Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding **Air Service.** The request for proposals (RFP) was made by the Department of Transportation. Mr. Stockam had requested that the RFP was for 14 round trips per week, but they only listed 12 in the request. It has been a strange situation over the past few weeks. American Airlines (AA) put us on the list of 15 airports to remove services, then we were put back on the Essential Air Service (EAS) and the RFP was released. The AA schedule was made, and we are back to 3 flights per day for October and November stated Mr. Stockam. Ms. Starkweather asked if we are filling those flights. Mr. Stockam stated that we are still flying 900's. If we were flying the 50 passenger jets on the same schedule, we would be doing 75% load factor. Our Air Service consultant says AA has cut back most small stations across the nation to 1 flight per day, but we still have 3 flights per day. Some of those stations are boarding 1000 passengers per month. We are

boarding 4000 passengers per month added Mr. Stockam. When you look at the numbers, we have more capacity than we really need. According to Mr. Stockam, two flights per day with the CRJ900 and another 50-passenger jet in the afternoon on a few days are a lot of seats. We are still doing better than a lot of places he stated. Some of the business travel is beginning to open back up and as this happens, the consumer is driving the need back up. We missed the international travel students for school this fall due to the Corona Virus. Some agreements are being made with the United States and other countries to open things back up. Once we finally get Europe and Germany open, that will make a big difference in Mr. Stockam' s opinion. Some Asian markets and markets in South America and Africa are beginning to open as well. We have reached out to AA, we are assuming they will bid on the RFP. We had nearly 100,000 passengers last year with AA. We have been contacted by some other carriers and we have given them data they requested for the RFP. Our Air Service consultant was collecting data and reported, in 12 months we have about 11,000 passengers to Dallas according to Mr. Stockam. When we opened Chicago flights, we knew it would be a healthy market. In 9 months, Chicago had 4000 more passengers to Chicago than Dallas did in 12 months. AA did price point the market competitively which drove some folks in that direction. With that being said, it was a strong market he added. We over doubled our international market by opening Chicago during that 9 months. Once we get on the other side of COVID, those markets will still be there according to Mr. Stockam. Mr. Russell asked if we could get two air carriers. Mr. Stockam said no, with EAS it will just be one carrier and we hope they will see that JLN is a dual hub airport with data to back that. The bids are due Oct. 26th. The Joplin City Manager will want to brief the council and there is a 30-day comment period. Mr. Stockam will update everyone before we move forward. Mr. Bentley stated that Tamko hasn't let anyone travel for months and they plan to reevaluate that the first of the year.

Item 3: New Business

The Snow Committee Meeting is scheduled in next few weeks. Mr. Stockam stated that it is more for airport operators, but board is welcome to attend. There will be no large changes this year. We have doubled our chemical on hand and found what works best for each situation. According to Mr. Stockam, most everything will remain the same. He added that every time we treat the runway, it cost about $1000 in cost of chemicals. We had 6 snow/ice events last year that we treated. Two events we treated twice during the evening. This year, we have enough chemical supplies to treat 9 events on hand. Trying to figure out pre-treatment, post treatment etc. was a challenge. We received more ice than snow last year and the timing was a learning process. Our plan worked well, it is a process you must be patient with he added. If we get a snow event this year, we plan to put some solids down, but we will pre-treat with the liquid.

The Community Room is being used by the City of Joplin Health Department as an expansion space. The Freedom of Flight Museum has put together a bunch of artwork and historical items and we want to thank the museum for putting that together. They have done a great job of preserving Joplin Airport history. If you if you want to become a patron of the Freedom of Flight Museum, it doesn't cost much.

Glen Piacentini extended his thanks for fixing walkway in front of Mizzou Aviation. He added that the sidewalk is still an issue under the walkthrough gate.

Mr. Bentley asked if the hydrant at the hangar was repaired. Mr. Stockam answered that it is fixed and turned on.

Mr. Russell asked about the AA lobby sign stating they no longer accept cash beginning on certain date. He expressed that is not user friendly. Mr. Stockam replied that is an AA policy, and most airlines have moved to that.

Mr. Osborn voted to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Bentley

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 am.

Approved,

Melissa Hunter, Airport Clerk

Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board