MINUTES OF MEETING
JOPLIN AIRPORT BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2016

The Airport Board met on the Second Floor in the Conference Room at the Joplin Regional Airport Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:02 A.M.

Item 1:

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes from last meeting.

Board members in attendance included Bill Harding, Mel Walbridge, Bob Loudermilk, Kelli Norris, Tim Forker, Maurice Clark and Randy Moore attended via phone.
Staff in attendance included Melissa Hunter and Steve Stockam.
Guests in attendance were Josh Crooker from the Alpha Air Center.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Clark moved to approve the minutes from September's meeting. Mr. Walbridge seconded. All were in favor.

Item 2: Old Business

Construction Projects Update

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the **C & F Taxiway project**. Everything is signed and ready to go. He stated that we asked the contractor what part they could start on this fall. Runway 18/36 will need to be closed for 60 days and runway 13/31 will need to be closed 90 days for the project and we won't get into that until next spring. There are a number of areas we could start sooner. The contractor said they could, but they bid the contract to do all at once. It will cost more money for mobilization if the project is parted out. Mr. Stockam said the FAA is fine with waiting until spring. March 1st will be the start date of the project. We will proceed with the administrative part of the project for now. There will be no benefit to beginning now. We will be eliminating a west side pond as part of the project. He added that we will be going into winter for the first time in 7-8 years without a construction project going. This will allow us to get caught up on other things. We took a major lightning strike a few weeks ago so runway Fox to approach has no lights. The transformers are gone and the lines are pulling apart. Mr. Stockam add that we keep enough wire on hand to replace and do the repairs. Also, there will be 1200 feet of digging, cable replacement and transformer repair. Additionally, we will concentrate on some general maintenance issues around the airport such as clearing fences and some TSA requests. Mr. Loudermilk asked if the lines were direct bury. Mr. Stockam stated that they were. He added that direct bury costs less but lasts just as long as buried conduit. We are looking at putting in cans, the initial cost is more but there will be less maintenance in the future. Mr. Loudermilk asked if it would be better to do boring. Mr. Stockam answered that we can work quicker with just digging so boring would not be beneficial for this project.

Mr. Stockam told the board about where we are at with the **new hangar building**. We are still waiting for money to come down from the governor. If the governor decides to cut loose the hangar money, we will move fast with the project. He did release some funds at the

first of the month, but they were all for education. There will be a new governor the first of the year and we don't know what will happen with the funding from that stand point. It will depend on who gets elected according to Mr. Stockam. There have been discussions with Senator Ron Richards regarding the funding. It is decided if the funding doesn't come through we will start over and try again.

Next, Mr. Stockam reminded the board about the upcoming tenant appreciation luncheon on Oct. 14th from 11:00am to 1:30pm. Mr. Stockam will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. We also have the casino charter returning that afternoon so we need to get the staff through the luncheon so they can work. Mr. Stockam invited all the board members to attend the luncheon and express their appreciation to the tenants for working with us last year during the renovations. The A-Hangar gate will be open for the event.

Item 3: New Business

Mr. Josh Crooker addressed the board regarding the next planed Alpha Air Show on September 9 – 10th 2017. Mr. Stockam asked if there was anything from last year's show that we should modify. Mr. Stockam and Mr. Crooker discussed the issues of parking. We didn't include restrictions for parking in the FEMA area previously and people didn't pay. Next year we will make modifications and a temporary ordinance concerning parking. Mr. Clark suggested the helicopter ride be moved to the very end of the runway. Its previous location was causing people to walk through tall grass which wasn't easy with strollers he said. Mr. Crooker said he would look into the issue. Mr. Stockam added that the helicopter rides were extremely popular. Mrs. Norris asked if we were charging for parking. Mr. Crooker said they were still discussing what they were going to do, it hasn't been decided yet. Mrs. Norris suggested they look into using Day Break Rotary who provides parking services. Mrs. Norris asked what acts were planning on being in the show. Mr. Crooker listed the helicopter, wing walker, jet truck, military static displays, team vortex, Dr. Vetch, and a mini jet BB5 and that would make a 3 -3 ½ hour show with an amended airshow on Sunday. Mr. Clark asked when bringing acts in for the airshow, does Alpha have to pay for the fuel? Mr. Crooker said yes, it is expensive. He added they are trying to find a Corsair as well. Mrs. Norris asked if there would be a car show like the Corvette Club. Mr. Crooker replied yes they are looking into that. Mrs. Norris asked what kind of food would be available. Mr. Crooker replied they were going to do the same food vendors as last year with the lunchbox truck as it worked out well. He added that they are planning to have a VIP show on Friday night for vendors and sponsors. Mr. Stockam asked the board for their recommendation on moving forward with the airshow. Mr. Harding approved and Mr. Clark seconded.

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the **EAS program**. He joined a conference call with American Airlines yesterday which was not very encouraging according to Mr. Stockam. He stated that American Airlines previously had given us the indication they were not going to apply for EAS funding this year. Joplin is the lowest subsidized city in the program at $8.00 per ticket. The maximum is $200.00 with the average being around $100.00 to $150.00. Mr. Stockam asked if they were going to bid, would they please include the Chicago flight as well. American airlines is not interested in doing that. Mr. Stockam learned the Chicago flight is not a money issue, American is still claiming it is a crew and pilot issue. Mr. Stockam stated that if United were to come in and bid a 2 hub bid, that American would fly without a subsidy and American would have it back. This has recently happened at several

other airports. It looks like they are using the system so they have use whichever way we go. Mr. Stockam added the worst case scenario is, they bid it and we still have two flights to Dallas. He asked if we could possibly go up an airplane size to a 70 passenger. However, we don't foresee any movement on their part over the next year. They hold all the cards and it is frustrating says Mr. Stockam. United won't go to the effort of bidding because American will just drop the EAS and all will remain the same. Mr. Moore asked if the city would guarantee the bid without the EAS. Mr. Stockam stated with the current budget issues, it is unlikely to get support from the city. He added that it is a gray area and he doesn't think it will help down the road however, he will look into it. Mr. Stockam will attend another meeting with American Airlines next week to float a few more ideas. If we go outside the EAS, there will be no timeline constraints. Those are hard options to look at down the road. Mr. Clark asked what time the morning flight leaves. He added there were some people still in the lobby after the flight left this morning. Mr. Stockam answered that the ladies had gotten lost and missed the flight. However, they do leave early if everyone has arrived early and is loaded. Mr. Stockam added that the flights are full. Mr. Clark asked if a survey had been conducted to make sure we won't lose people to the Chicago flight from the Dallas flight if it is added. Mr. Stockam answered that American Airlines hasn't increased in capacity this year, only moved assets. He added that trying to convince them to move a flight from another community isn't working. Mr. Stockam explained that looking to get another carrier and back stopping the EAS could risk the good thing we have going. This situation has happened to Joplin before and we have very limited possibilities. The available pilots from another carrier would also be tight. He added that Delta is not interested in Joplin and the only other carrier would be United. We don't know that we can ask United to come in, it may be violating EAS. Mr. Stockam added that it looks like the Joplin to Dallas flights will continue. He also stated to American Airlines we would appreciate if they considered bidding a 2 hub bid. They said they would consider it, but it's not likely. Mr. Stockam stated that as long as American bids the EAS, they control our flights at the airport. Mr. Clark asked if we could lose them. Mr. Stockam said it can be a very tedious situation. It looks like American made 5 million dollars from the Joplin airport last year. They don't go where they don't make money, but they could move their flights to where they make even more money. Mr. Forker asked if American could move out whenever they want. Mr. Stockam stated they could, except under the EAS. If we had service without the EAS, we could go out to get bids from other carriers. Mr. Stockam stated that you have to be careful when you are looking because it could be a situation of having flights vs. having no flights. Mr. Moore expressed that it is silly to apply for an EAS over $8.00. Mr. Stockam added that he doesn't know of any time that an EAS application was denied. If it is submitted, it will be accepted in his opinion. Mr. Clark stated that we are having an average of 40 passengers per flight. Are we turning people away? Mr. Stockam said typically people can't get out or back on the day they want due to capacity. We are running at 82-83% load factors. People are being turned away because capacity and no one is going to the East coast because it adds extraordinary time. Mr. Loudermilk asked if we could go out on our own after the EAS is signed. Mr. Stockam stated the he didn't have a legal opinion on that, but the DOT wouldn't like it. Mr. Moore asked about the option for a privately funded backstop for the Chicago flight. He added that it sounds like the only reason why American Airlines is applying for the EAS is to control us. Mr. Stockam agreed. Mr. Moore added that he didn't think American Airlines would back out from spite.

Mr. Stockam agreed, but added you would be walking out on a limb. The EAS is a hostage situation. They collect money from the government and control the city. Mr. Moore added that it would make more sense if it was $100.00 per ticket. Mr. Loudermilk stated that we are so close to being out of the EAS. Mr. Stockam stated that it is not about money, it is about control. He added that he will meet with Mike on Tuesday and get more information on our options. What we can and can't do along with the ramifications.

Item 4: Other Business

Mr. Stockam informs the board about the T-Hangar accounting issues. He stated we have made great gains with the past due accounts. All accounts are being collected upon except three outstanding accounts from tenants who are no longer with us. These accounts are being turned over to the city attorney to handle in the courts. Mr. Clark stated that since highway 43 was recently paved, there are no stripes marking the airport main entrance. It is hard to find in the dark. Mr. Clark suggested that we ask MoDot to put a light in the entrance. Mrs. Norris suggested we get reflector poles. Mr. Walbridge suggested painting new white lines on the highway. Mr. Stockam replied that he would look into it.

Mr. Loudermilk moved to adjourn the meeting.
Mr. Clark seconded. All were in favor.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:03AM.

Approved,

Melissa Hunter, Airport Clerk

Bob Loudermilk, Chairman of the Board