MINUTES OF MEETING

JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD

November 11, 2021

The Airport Board met in the board room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 7:02am.

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

Board members attending included Bob Loudermilk, Fred Osborn, Mike Bentley, Randy Moore, and Richard Russell, Rob O'Brian and Kelli Starkweather. Staff present included Steve Stockam, Brent Williams and Melissa Hunter. Also attending was Jack Schaller of Olssen Associates and Brian Jones of Civil Air Patrol.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Osborn moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Mr. Loudermilk seconded. All were in favor.

Item 2: Old Business

Mr. Stockam began by thanking all our veterans for their service to our country.

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding the Runway 18-36 project schedule. We are at the tail end of the clean-up and finishing work. The concrete pour is complete, and the lighting installation is being completed as well. Runway grooving is in progress and Taxiway Charlie will be re-opened next week. We must get the striping completed first, he added. Mr. Stockam stated that we plan to have full project completion by December 6th, but the weather will play into it. There will be an airport closure during the overnight hours for grooving the intersection. We plan to close the airport after the last commercial flight and re-open before the first commercial flight the following morning. This closure may occur over two nights, he added. Currently, we have this work scheduled for November 29th and 30th. Mr. Stockam stated that we will announce this closure to all our airport partners before commencing. According to Mr. Stockam, the project is looking great. This will be our first concrete runway at the Joplin Regional airport, and we are learning the maintenance and care it will require. He added that we are one of the first airports in the region to have the newly approved high intensity runway lighting. The lighting will not be heated as that is not required in our area, but that is why they are a little higher, he added. There will be some residual clean up needed and the concrete plant may stay until spring. It all worked out well according to Mr. Stockam.

Next, Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding United Airlines. Mr. Stockam referred to the monthly traffic report, adding that our traffic numbers continue to be solid. International travel has re-opened this week but travel mostly is leisure at this point. Mr. Osborn inquired about Houston flights. Mr. Stockam replied that United has removed the Houston flight until closer to Thanksgiving and we are unsure if the flight will still be available into December. Mr. Stockam stated that we used to get the schedule about three months in advance, but now it is more like three weeks. United is telling us that there will be no Houston flights in December, January, or February but we will wait and see. Houston dropped off to 55% load factor and then bounced back. Winter vacation spots are more popular in the south so it may come back we just do not know. United is reacting to demand. Delta and United cut a lot of domestic flights across the country. Mr. Stockam added that this is not just to fill travel demand, but also lack of crew. They will need to backfill crews to accommodate the newly opened international flights. Now the flight crew comes in at noon and the plane sits on the ramp for four hours. Mr. Stockam inquired why not fly it to Houston and back during that time. United has been good partners with our community. Our loads are still looking good, and we are packed for the holidays.

Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding Airport Improvement Projects. Going into the winter months, there are three projects coming up once the runway is complete. Every three years we must complete a pavement management update. The emphasis will be to resurface runway 13/31 by mill and fill. It has never had anything done to it and it has served Joplin well. It is in rough condition with lots of cracks and repairs needed. Mr. Stockam added that this will be an 8-million-dollar project. An evaluation will be completed, and we will take the data from there. Next is the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting building and Snow Equipment storage building plan and site study. They will evaluate response time to the center of the airfield and evaluate responsibilities for commercial service. Mr. Stockam stated that the best site probability may be next to the vault off Foxtrot. It would provide the best access to the center of the airfield and landside, but we must go through the process. Another option is off highway 171, and another mid-field. We will see how it goes; it will be an interesting process, he added. The maintenance storage facility may be separated. The design for these facilities is in this year's budget. Mr. Stockam will meet with Crawford, Murphy, and Tilly before December to discuss. Mr. Osborn asked if there was a chance any of the projects could be sped up in anticipation of infrastructure funds coming down from the Federal Government. Mr. Stockam stated that is one of the reasons our pavement management plan is such a priority. We may have the ability to get funds to do the mill and fill early. A plan could be put together for this is about 90 days. Whereas design projects take approximately 18-24 months. The Federal Aviation Administration prioritizes projects, and we do not know how ours fits in. If there are funds left over after the four-year program, it will be issued as discretionary grants. We are excited about our possibilities according to Mr. Stockam.

Item 3: New Business

We received our approved budget from the City. We will proceed with installation of an ADA ramp at the General Aviation Terminal Building. We will move forward quickly and try to use the City Consultant, Allgeier Martin Associates. Mizzou is moving forward with changes according to Mr. Stockam. Mr. Adolphsen may have signed an agreement with a local restauranter. The City is replacing phone systems and the airport is on the list. As a part of that upgrade, we will replace our paging system as well. We are looking to move onto phase 2 of Commerical Terminal carpet replacement,

although we are still waiting for carpet to be installed from phase 1. We will upgrade some heat and air components to the Commerical Terminal. We will replace two farm gates and upgrade our aircraft deicing equipment. Liberty utility has finished new electrical installation by the General Aviation Terminal although they are not done with the lighting change out in the parking area.

Mr. Loudermilk asked how the operations center office move is going. Mr. Stockam replied that the staff has been tied up with the project, but we have made a few changes in anticipation of the move. He added that we are planning to move our airport operations center to the back side of the General Aviation terminal as requested by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration). Mr. Bently asked how that would work. Mr. Stockam replied that the ARFF (AIRCRAFT RESCUE & FIREFIGHTING) building will be maned primarily by the on-shift staff, and the operations manager and maintenance will be moved to the operations center in the GA (General Aviation) building.

Mr. Stockam spoke about the Runway rededication plan. He added that usually there would be a ribbon cutting but with weather conditions, that may not be optimal. We have decided to have a board meeting that day over the lunch hour, followed by statements in the lobby, then bus everyone onto the airfield and make as many trips as needed. The aircraft will be on the ramp for a backdrop. That will make the December 9th board meeting scheduled for 12:00pm and the City Council will be invited to attend the rededication ceremony.

Mr. Osborn inquired about the observation location and corporate partners interested in assisting. Mr. Stockam stated that we must complete the runway project first because that area is being used as a construction entrance. That project is on the list for the new engineering consultant to discuss after the first of the year. Ms. Starkweather added that it would be great to see photos of other airports who have observation areas, for example. Mr. Stockam stated that Riverside Airport in Tulsa has a pavilion with speakers tuned into the tower with an elevated ADA area. We could work with the Freedom of Flight Museum and Civil Air Patrol and get a static display as well, he added. Ms. Starkweather stated that it would be important to have a fenced area to keep children safe from the highway.

Ms. Starkweather concluded the meeting by thanking our veterans for their service.

Mr. Osborn motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Loudermilk.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39am.

Approved,

Melissa Hunter, Administrative Assistant

Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board