MINUTES OF MEETING

JOPLIN REGIONAL AIRPORT BOARD

December 9, 2021

The Airport Board met in the board room at the Joplin Regional Airport Commercial Terminal Building. The meeting was brought to order at 12:01pm.

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

Board members attending included Bob Loudermilk, Fred Osborn, Mike Bentley, Richard Russell, Rob O'Brian and Kelli Starkweather. Randy Moore was absent. Staff present included Steve Stockam, Melissa Hunter and Lynden Lawson, Assistant Director of Public Works.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Bentley moved to approve the November meeting minutes. Mr. O'Brian seconded. All were in favor.

Item 2: Old Business

Mr. Stockam began by addressing the board regarding the construction on Runway 18-36. The Grand Opening Ceremony is planned immediately following the board meeting with a tour bus ride north of the intersection according to Mr. Stockam. Construction crews are still working to complete the south end with paint preparation in crack seal areas. He added that the new LED lights will be bright and must be burned in. Joplin Regional Airport will be one of the first airports in our area to have high intensity LED runway lights. They must be aimed to line up with the runway according to Mr. Stockam. Runway 13/31 will now be our only item at the airport with old incandescent lighting. We hope to update that in a few years along with the 13/31 overlay project, he added. Our electric bill continues to decrease with these updates. We will continue updating the terminal and General Aviation terminal to LED lighting as well. Mr. Stockam stated that we are looking to open Runway 18-36 next week, hopefully Wednesday, and cleanup work will continue. With the new runway, our capacity has increased, and the grooves will help. Mr. Bentley asked if we would need an instrument approach recheck. Mr. Stockam replied that we will have to verify the PAPI's. He added that rock will remain near the entrance road until the quarry moves it. The concrete plant will remain for a few more months as well. Mr. Osborn congratulated Mr. Stockam for a job well done with no incursions or incidents during construction.

Next Mr. Stockam addressed the board regarding our monthly traffic report. We only had 5 Houston flights in November and no Houston flights on our current schedule. The other hubs are holding around 70%. He added that it was slow last week between Thanksgiving and Christmas, but that is normal. Mr. Stockam gave the council a briefing on Monday, and we appreciate their support. He

added that the international markets opened, and it doubled our growth, but they closed quickly again. Mr. Stockam stated that the CEO of United projects by 2023 United will be the largest airline in the world. That will depend on the international market, he added. Inflation will be an issue affecting fuel prices. He continued to say that pilots and crews continue to be an issue. We are excited about the growth potential at Joplin. We have put 6000 passengers on board per month with almost no business travelers. Ms. Starkweather commented that COVID-19 has ticked up across the country. Springfield Mercy has 50-60 inpatients where a few weeks ago the number was in the teens. We continue to ride the COVID waves. She commented that flu season is upon us as well. Mr. Stockam stated that he is proud of what we have accomplished in spite of the pandemic. United Airlines pulled out of Columbia and now has only American Airlines. Mr. O'Brian stated he saw a positive article about leisure travel. It could help people who have not chosen Joplin previously as they may believe it is for the business traveler. Mr. Loudermilk commented that the ease of TSA through Joplin verse s TSA through Kansas City as well as free parking is a plus. He continued to say since we have better lighting, it may deter theft. Mr. Russell asked how ticket pricing is holding up. Mr. Stockam replied that he has not heard any complaints. Mr. Lawson commented that Mr. Stockam has been a great asset to the airport and continued to say that he makes things happen. It will be interesting to see how the federal money comes down for infrastructure packages. We want to quickly prepare our 5-year program to receive some of the federal funding for future projects. The Runway 13/31 overlay project may be moved up and we have the Airport Rescue Fire Fighting facility design to begin this spring according to Mr. Stockam. There have been a lot of changes over the past 12 years, he agreed.

Item 3: New Business

Mr. Stockam wishes to have the basic layout of the observation area available for the board during the January meeting. Sam Gaskill is donating a T-33 to the Freedom of Flight Museum for display. We plan to use it as a gate guard which is exciting, he stated. The next task will be to move it 5 blocks up the road to be placed in front of the General Aviation Terminal so the museum can access it for tours, and we can keep an eye on it for security reasons in that area as well.

Mr. Stockam commented that Mr. Adolphsen is moving forward with restaurateurs, but hitting roadblocks with labor costs etc. The Public Works department does not have enough man power to run snowplows. The City will be contracting with Asbell Contracting as well as the airport for snow removal. Opportunities for a terminal generator have been put on the expedited budget request.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Approved,

Melissa Hunter, Administrative Assistant

Kelli Starkweather, Chairman of the Board