

The regular monthly meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority was held February 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Airport Conference Room. Board members present were Kendall Switzer, Karen Stelmak, Ted Mathis, Kevin Kelleher, and Carl Lehrkind. Also present were Brian Sprenger, Airport Director, Scott Humphrey, Deputy Airport Director, Troy Watling, Assistant Director - Finance, and Shannon Rocha, Recorder.

Kendall Switzer, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the regular meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority Board.

1. Review and approve minutes of regular meeting held January 14, 2021

Mr. Switzer asked if everyone had received their copy of the minutes and if they had any corrections or additions. There were none.

MOTION: Mr. Lehrkind moved approval of the minutes of the meeting held January 14, 2021. Mr. Kelleher seconded the motion and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

3. Report on passenger boardings and flight operations – Scott Humphrey

Mr. Humphrey said total operations for January were up 3.6%. Corporate landings were up 16%. Total revenue enplanements were 64.5% of last year's enplanements. Deplanements were 61.8% of last year's deplanements. Total landings were down 5.4%. Load factor was down 29%. Fuel dispensed for December was down 28.2%.

February is currently at 60% of last year going into the holiday weekend. Mr. Humphrey expects to be in the 65% to 70% range this month. We had 11 Customs landings last month compared to 26 in January 2020.

Mr. Switzer asked if there are any predictions for the summer. Mr. Humphrey said we have the seats, but the question is if we will keep them. That will depend on the vaccine and how numbers go in the spring. We should be in a much better place than last summer. We will have a bump, but it is hard to tell how much.

4. Airport Director's Report – Brian Sprenger

Mr. Sprenger presented a chart comparing TSA nationally to Bozeman. Since Christmas, we have been well above national levels. We are seeing a slow steady increase in parking; we are currently at 48% of normal. Parking compared to national we are mostly performing higher. Food and beverage saw a large increase in January compared to December. That can mostly be contributed to the new restaurant capacity. We were at 65% of passengers but 80% of revenue. Parking revenue has dropped slightly since the Christmas peak.

A chart compared seats this summer compared to last which have increased. There is still time for that to be adjusted. We now have 24 non-stop routes which is more than we have ever had before.

Today is the first Alaska Airline mainline service to Bozeman and any airport in Montana. That was originally scheduled for last June. Atlanta is now daily year-round. We are in a rather good position but much can still change.

Through November, we are now the 98th busiest airport in the nation compared to above 100 previously.

Food and beverage is at 69.5% of normal and retail is 68% of normal compared to passenger levels of 60%, so they are performing well.

The Missoula airport manager has accepted a job with the Reno airport. They have not named a replacement yet.

Crash fire rescue truck bid will be February 26th at 11am. This was rushed on us. The FAA is anticipating discretionary funding and said if we could complete a bid before the end of February, they could potentially program that funding. We can bring that to the March meeting for consideration.

The College of Arts & Architecture would like to collaborate with the airport. They are willing to make us a scale model of our terminal building. They would also like to design art for the gap area between gates B2 and B3. They would like to make it a class project for conceptualization of an art installation there. The intent is concept. It would require board approval. They have done a lot of projects for public entities like the library, MSU chapel and others. Staff thinks it is an interesting project because you never know what they might come up with. Ms. Stelmak said she likes the idea with the understanding the board may not approve the project. Mr. Sprenger agreed and said this would provide them a real-world type situation. This would be a good learning process for them. Mr. Switzer said maybe it would be nice to have them present to the board in person. Mr. Sprenger agreed and said that is the plan. Ideas can be sent to the board for feedback and some time at the board meeting could be set aside for a presentation. All agreed with moving forward.

Ms. Stelmak said we are usually comparing last year to this year and asked would it be possible to add in a 2019 comparison. Mr. Sprenger said going forward there will be 2019 comparison numbers.

Mr. Switzer asked how staff is doing with the increased schedule and the weather. Mr. Sprenger said at times they are taxed. We will have to take a hard look at staffing for the coming year. Mr. Switzer said the growth has changed. Mr. Sprenger said we have added 70,000 square feet to the terminal. We have not added any staff, but we also have less passengers. Those are all things to consider going forward.

Mr. Kelleher asked about Customs and if we expect that to increase. Mr. Sprenger said as Canada opens, we will see more Customs.

5. Consider bills and approve for payment


The bills were reviewed and detailed by Mr. Sprenger.

Mr. Mathis asked about reimbursement for the Northwestern Energy fees. Mr. Sprenger said most of it is reimbursed through the lease process.

MOTION: Ms. Stelmak moved to pay the bills and Mr. Lehrkind seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.



Kendall Switzer, Board Chair