

INDY SOUTH GREENWOOD AIRPORT BOARD OF AVIATION COMMISSIONERS
February 13th, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

Scott Hines, Board President, called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT: Commissioners Scott Hines, Jordan Jackson, David Cox, and Recording Secretary Angel Hudspeth were present.

Approval of:

Mr. Hines presented the Meeting Minutes for the January 9th, 2025 meeting for approval. Mr. Cox motioned to approve; Mr. Jackson seconded. All ayes. **Motion carries.**

Airport Manager Report

Rick Ferrill highlighted the various items on his report, including fuel sales, turbine operations, and project updates.

Counsel Report

Terry Swihart was present at the meeting. Mr. Swihart motioned to approve AIP-42 Project, FY 2024-2025. Expand Apron, paving and marking design, bidding and construction phase professional services. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve; Mr. Cox seconded. All ayes. **Motion carries.**

Controller Financial Report

None.

Engineering Report

None.

Board Requests

None.

Approval of Claims Docket

Mr. Hines presented the Claims Docket in the amount of \$118,022.17. Mr. Jackson moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Cox. All ayes. **Motion carries.**

Audience Requests

The following people from the audience address the Board:

David Jeffries, 4137 Hickory Ridge Blvd, owner of Jeff Air Pilot Services. Mr. Jeffries stated the following:

I wanted to express our disappointment in this board and that we, Jeff Air Pilot Services, were excluded from the discussion leading up to the termination of our terminal building lease, not one board member approached us, talked to us, told us that we were on the agenda prior to the January board meeting. As a longtime stakeholder at this airport, we were confident that we have contributed to the overall good of the airport of which the financial numbers testify and verified. Ahead of this vote last month, viable solutions were not presented nor discussed that allowed Jeff Air to continue providing flight training services at the Indy South Greenwood Airport. It has been suggested that we build classrooms in the hangar that we have, or seek off airport commercial space, which we have considered and nothing is available provides adequate solutions to that end. We currently utilize our hangar to maintain our fleet of aircraft. In 2022, we sought a land lease with the city at our expense to build a facility that will solidify a long-term business strategy with this airport which this airport denied that request. Rick Ferrill today told Gretchen Jeffries and Jonathan Jeffries, two of our employees, that our hangar lease would be withheld until after

this board meeting. We question if this is an attempt to control our business, to inhibit our ability to fully express our concerns about our right to receive full disclosure of the events leading up to the termination of this vote. In our opinion, withholding our lease holds us hostage, which is unfair and potentially discriminatory practices. We need confirmation tonight that our hangar lease is going to be renewed. That being said, you have heard from us. I want to defer to our Jeff Air community, who happen to also be part of the Indy South Greenwood community. I'd like to defer all my time to Arnaldo Collazo and additionally Mark Johnson of Indiana Wesleyan University.

Arnaldo Collazo-Matso, 129 Bennington Rd. Mr. Collazo-Matso stated the following:

I've served in the Army for 6 years. I'm currently using my post-9/11 GI Bill at Jeff Air Pilot Services. I completed my instrument rating and commercial pilots license using my GI Bill at Jeff Air Pilot Services. And I'm currently waiting to start training on my multi-engine add on. Using Jeff Air additional aircraft category and or rating course. Other veterans are frustrated on this board's decision to have Jeff Air leave or vacate this premises. This will not only put my training on hold, but other veterans as well, and this is our only option right now. Jeff Air is the only flexible part 141 school that is not an academy or full-time program, as far as the full-time commitment, which works perfectly for those of us who have full-time jobs. The decision will hurt all the veterans and me as well. Using VA benefit Jeff Air, it would also put tremendous and unnecessary stress and us who are trying to make a career change are becoming airline pilots and eventually, or even certified flight instructors. There are no other options right now. Currently locally, Bold Flight Tom Wood are not certified. Lift Academy and ATP are full-time commitment programs that will not work for us that have full time jobs. Whatever the problems they are, I'm sure they could be fixed on a one-on-one conversation. Nothing could be fixed when it that way. And if this decision is a done deal and wasting my time and so, be it, but thank you for your time.

Mark Johnson, 121 East Urban Street. Mr. Johnson stated the following:

I represent Indiana Wesleyan University. I'm actually at the headquarters campus in Marion, Indiana. So, we were very surprised last month to hear in a very terse statement that not only was Jeff Air being asked to vacate the premises, as a result, that means that our program as well is being asked to leave Greenwood. I think we've had in other ways as well, relationships with the city and Indiana Wesleyan University, so very disappointing for us. We've spent many years working with them from the beginning of our program, actually with Indiana Wesleyan University, our aviation program. Jeff Air has been a part of that program from the beginning. As one of our flight training partners, we've had many students go through their program but specifically, we have five students here currently who have been asked to leave as part of the decision with us as well. So, again, very disappointing to us, part of the challenge with that is we're used to working in partnerships where everybody's right up front with what's going on, you know, what is and was mentioned previously, how do we work things out? Does not feel like that is happened, and so just very disappointed from Indiana Wesleyan University perspective.

Todd Vandeman, 731 N 150 W. Mr. Vandeman stated the following:

I'm in Franklin, lived in Johnson County, lived in Greenwood for many years. I have an airplane back in hangar A-10. Had an airplane here for at least 20 years, 10 years on this airplane and 10 on the previous. Got my license here in 1982, and I'm a commercial airline pilot not. My son is Tyler, Taylor, and Tanner are all three have gotten their pilot training here. Two of them are now airline pilots, and at least four of their buddies got their training here and are also airline pilots. They contribute a lot to the county. Some of them live here in Greenwood, some live down in Franklin, they live in different areas, but they contribute to the county and being productive people and in salaries. What I'd like to say is that Jeff Air has done my family really well. I've known the family, from a church background, for a long time and I also know people on the board or people in the county. Mayor Mark Myers has been a friend of mine for many years. So, I know we're kind of on different sides, maybe, but what I do know is everyone can be reasonable about what's going on. I personally understand why he wants some space back and some room on the ramp. I get that. And I think that is something that should be negotiated is how can we help work with this company that's been here and been part of this, making this a beehive activity for 14 years. 14 years ago, there wasn't a beehive activity here. And I think it's great to see the amount of traffic and the more traffic that comes through here, the more traffic will build on. I also think that corporate traffic

will continue to grow and that's a great thing for the county, great thing for Greenwood. I want to see that happen. But I don't think it has to be on the process of eliminating a company that's been here and moving them over to another place completely. It's kind of off the area, it's going to be very difficult for them. I'd like to see some kind of alternative program to help them out, maybe extend some time here for a couple more months so that we have time to discuss. You have time to discuss. How can we help this company this company, that does their amount of business here of several hundred thousand dollars in fuel sales and rentals from the property and bringing people here? How can we find another place to put them in? What can we do to work with them? And if they've miscommunicated on something, I think those things need to come out individually, let them communicate with you, sit down together and see what's going on. And if you guys have miscommunicated in some way, none of us really know what's happening behind the scenes. You know, we've seen what we've read, we've seen what we have watched on TV. Like I said, I know, I know, the Jeffries from here, I've watched what they do for good things for people. And I want to see that continue in some way here. I know you want some property back here in the back, the rooms and stuff, and I get that. I understand what you're looking to do, but I think there's an ulterior another way of doing things to help them and to keep the business here that they've been very productive in this county and gotten some colleges involved, some trade schools involved, and it's really neat to see what they've done, including the other schools that have grown here. I think it is because of this school. They've brought the amount of business in that it allows overflow to other, other schools here. So, I am asking you all sit down, take a breather from this and talk about what you can do in the future to help these folks. And let's see what we can come up with the right conclusion to have a good thing for everybody. Because I think there's a very good possibility that everybody can benefit from what's going on with Tom Jeffries here, and Jeff Air here.

Brian DellaRosa, 7806 Sunset Ridge Parkway. The following was conveyed during Mr. DellaRosa's address to the Board:

I work for Jeff Air. First, is it okay if I interact with the board?

Terry Swihart answered yes, but it is just a comment period. They cannot respond.

Brian responded, okay. Well, I was just hoping to find out if there was a five-year plan in place for, for the Greenwood Airport. Is there any?

Terry responded, if you have any comments you want to make go ahead but as far as the board this is not a questions and answers.

Brian responded, okay. So, it was either the mayor or Rick, I don't recall which, suggested that Jeff Air move, move some operations into the hangar. We may need to do that. So, what I am asking is we haven't been provided a lease for the hangar and that's something that we are going to need. You guys have asked us to do that, so we need some confirmation that we'll get a hangar renewal. And I need to see if we can do that tonight, like we need to make some agreements here. We need to be able to move forward.

Terry responded; Rick sent me over a lease that I will need to look over.

Brian responded; okay. Can you, it's a public meeting, can you tell us what it says?

Terry responded; I haven't had a chance to look at it yet.

Brian responded; can you look at it?

Terry responded; no. Not right now.

Brian responded; why not?

Terry responded; I do not have my computer.

Brian responded; we can take a break.

Terry responded; no.

Brian responded, Okay, is there any negotiation to be had for this original lease that we've got for the offices that we maintain?

Terry responded, like I said, this is a comment period. So, there is not going to be any responses to your questions.

Brian responded, that is pretty much what I figured. So, if you could take a look at that and then let us know on the lease? Because you guys have suggested that we move some operations into there, and we are going to do that, so we are going to need that lease agreement as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Tom Jeffries, 4411 Furlong Ln. Mr. Jeffries stated the following:

I am the founder of Jeff Air and currently the half owner in the company. As you have heard from our people, we are disappointed in this decision. There are basically four things that I want say. Number one, in the 14 years that we've been here, we have been good tenants. We've been on time with our payments. We have tried to cooperate with the airport in every way possible. We helped out with snow removal moving our airplanes, removed ropes, we've tried to be good neighbors and good participants. So that is an important part of what we believe and what we stand on. The second thing is that what we have, as David suggested, we have attempted to get other spaces because we have outgrown this space. We have had one airplane on the ramp in 2010 when I came here and had approval with the airport authority to come and start operations here. Began in the from office in the terminal building and have been in this building ever since. We have at the height had 18 airplanes. We have 17 now. So, we've created a lot of good will. We have created a lot of revenue for the airport. We did 9600 hours of flight training last year. We probably purchased over 48,000 gallons of fuel. I say that because we cannot operate the kind of training that we're doing in an off-airport site that is unacceptable. We've looked at them, and these are unacceptable. Our current hangar is currently full because we do our own maintenance and with these airplanes, we may have a lot of maintenance that we are doing. So, what I am saying is, that if this can't be resolved, our solution is not to do an airport site and in still try to train, that we're literally going to have to move our entire fleet. We're going to have to remove our business from Greenwood. I feel that Rick should have been upfront with us and let us know ahead of time of what was going on and what the problem was so that we could work that out. And finally, we just really feel like that this is unfair treatment, but that remains to be seen. So, appreciate the opportunity to speak to you tonight.

That concluded the audience requests, after which Terry Swihart recommended that the Board go to the next item on the agenda.

Scott Hines responded, smart person does what the attorney tells him. I've never been accused of being a smart person. So let me say one thing, and I am speaking only for myself, not for the board, only for myself. We have no intention of throwing Jeff Air off the airport. We just need the space in the office. That's all this has ever been. So, you know, I can't say we are going to renew the lease, because it's up to Terry. But I have got no problem with Jeff Air. In fact, I am glad Jeff Air is here. But we need space to grow. It's that simple. So, Terry, I apologize.

Mayor/Deputy Mayor Report

None

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:58PM.

The next meeting will be held on March 13th, 2025 at 5:30PM.
So approved, this 13th day of March 2025.

William F. Adams
Scott Hines, President
Vice President

Angel Hudspeth
Angel Hudspeth, Recording Secretary