

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE SALINA AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MAY 29, 2025
HANGAR 600, ROOM 100**

Call to Order

Chair Boos called the board meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and confirmed that a quorum was present. Business and Communications Manager Kasey Windhorst confirmed that the board meeting notice and packet were published and distributed on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

Attendance

Directors Boos, Roberg, O'Brien, Commerford and Bunn were present. Also attending were Executive Director Pieter Miller; Director of Administration and Finance Shelli Swanson; Director of Facilities and Construction Maynard Cunningham; Business and Communications Manager Kasey Windhorst; and Attorney Greg Bengtson. Guest in attendance: Lindsey Drieling, Drieling Aviation; Mitch Robinson, Salina Community Economic Development Organization; and Julie Yager-Zuker, Avflight Salina. Eric Brown, Hutton and Renee Duxler, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce attended remotely.

Agenda

Executive Director Miller reviewed the agenda and noted no additions.

Strategic Planning Session

SAA Current Status

Executive Director Pieter Miller reviewed recent airport activity and developments. He reported continued operational growth and sustained high demand for hangar space. Financially, the

Authority remains stable with projected growth supporting its long-term initiatives. Major infrastructure developments were also highlighted, including the Terminal Expansion Project, which is being completed in three phases. Phase 1—featuring a large, expanded hold room and updated TSA checkpoint—is underway, with final completion expected by Spring/Summer 2026. Additionally, Miller emphasized strategic brand messaging centered on SAA’s vision, mission, and values. The airport continues to be promoted as “America’s Fuel Stop,” and is positioned as a regional hub for industrial, military, and aerospace activity.

Internal Analysis

Lindsey Dreiling, Dreiling Aviation presented findings from recent stakeholder surveys. The survey revealed priorities centered on service reliability, infrastructure, and enhanced access to commercial air service. Major challenges identified included the need for additional funding for capital improvement projects, workforce recruitment issues, costs associated with pavement and hangar maintenance, and sustaining long-term MRO operations. Dreiling noted a strong internal emphasis on succession planning and talent development to ensure continuity and leadership sustainability for both the Salina Airport Authority and its aviation partners. Director of Administration and Finance Shelli Swanson provided a financial overview supporting strategic growth and long-term planning. Swanson distributed the 10-year operating revenue and expenses analysis report, capital expenditure history report, as well as debt service and mill levy requirements.

Future Visualization & Goals

Board members and staff reviewed a 5–10 year strategic outlook. Key focus areas include strengthening Essential Air Service reliability. Business operations goals include expanding tenant leases, introducing food service options, enhancing support for military operations, and pursuing growth in both MRO and aircraft paint operations. Infrastructure initiatives will prioritize continued improvement of runways, taxiways, drainage systems, apron space, and the North Ramp, while addressing high demand for new hangar development and improved airfield access. The airport also aims to support innovation by monitoring trends in advanced air mobility, encouraging uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) research, and fostering opportunities for aviation events.

Actions and Implementation Timeline

The group finalized a set of actions and strategic milestones. Under customer engagement, the Authority will prioritize air service reliability and consistent service availability. Business development efforts will include recruiting new aviation tenants and maximizing facility utilization. Infrastructure plans call for continuation of existing capital projects while pursuing funding for additional improvements. Succession planning efforts will involve reassessing key staff positions, updating job descriptions, and implementing cross-training, mentoring, and leadership development programs.

Adjournment

Director Commerford moved to adjourn; Director Bunn seconded the motion. Motion carried 5 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Minutes approved at the June 24, 2025, board meeting.

Kasey L. Windhorst, Board Clerk

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