

The regular monthly meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority was held May 14, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Airport Customs and Operations Building. Board members present were Carl Lehrkind, Ted Barkley, Kendall Switzer, and Ted Mathis. Also present were Brian Sprenger - CEO, Chris Pomeroy - COO, and Troy Watling - CFO.

Mr. Lehrkind, Board Chairman, welcomed everyone to the regular meeting of the Gallatin Airport Authority Board and called the meeting to order.

### **1. Review and approve minutes of regular meeting held April 9, 2026**

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Mathis moved approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held April 9, 2026. Mr. Switzer seconded the motion, and all board members voted aye. The motion carried.

### **2. Public Comment Period**

Mr. Colter Metcalf addressed the board. Mr. Metcalf is running for Gallatin County Commissioner District 3. Mr. Metcalf said he has a private pilot's license and is a huge fan of the airport. Mr. Metcalf retired from Gallatin County Sheriff and has worked extensively with airport police. Mr. Metcalf said he is an avid traveler and appreciates all the air service coming to Bozeman. Mr. Metcalf said he is running unopposed and looks forward to working together.

### **3. Consider requests by Pristine Jets, Straight & Level Aeromedical and Summit Valet & Storage to sublease space from Skyra/Ridgeline Aviation**

Mr. Sprenger said Ridgeline completed their northside facility and they have office space for subleasing. These 3 entities are all looking to sublease the space as airport aviation support. Staff recommends approval of the request.

**MOTION:** Mr. Switzer moved to approve the requests by Pristine Jets, Straight & Level Aeromedical and Summit Valet & Storage to sublease space from Skyra/Ridgeline Aviation. Mr. Barkley seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **4. Consider request by TT Heli LLC to perform Helicopter Repair and Maintenance**

Mr. Sprenger said this is similar to the previous request. They have been operating on the field for some time. They had challenges meeting the minimum requirements as there were no spaces for subleasing. This brings them into compliance. Minimum standards are currently under review by a subcommittee of Mr. Mathis and Ms. Stelmak.

Mr. Lehrkind said we have had problems with helicopter operations in the past and asked if we expect any here. Mr. Sprenger said we do not expect any problems.

**MOTION:** Mr. Barkley moved to approve the request by TT Heli LLC to perform Helicopter Repair and Maintenance. Mr. Switzer seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **5. Consider final FY 2027 Budget**

Mr. Sprenger said this month's review includes many more items. The overall budget is \$109,821,602 for fiscal year (FY) 2027. This is the largest budget we've had to date. Capital projects alone are \$91 million, and the terminal project is \$62 million of that. We are now spending \$6 million per month on the terminal project requiring us to dip into reserves for

capital projects. We plan to receive grants and reimbursements for \$35.5 million. That does not include the airport terminal program grant that we are waiting to hear back on. The worst-case scenario is we use \$16.5 million of the line of credit to maintain \$10 million cash on hand. That is well within reason. We expect no more than a 3-year use of the line of credit. This scenario assumes we can accomplish all of the projects on the list. Generally, things get delayed for various reasons.

Mr. Mathis met with Mr. Sprenger to review the budget by line item. Mr. Mathis said the budget is realistic, although scary, and is in favor of it. Mr. Switzer commended the team. Mr. Switzer said the scale and scope over the last 5 years has been amazing. This budget is a good shot at addressing growth and fiscal responsibility. We try to limit the use of the line of credit but that is why it is there. Mr. Switzer said he thinks that Bozeman is the benchmark of airports. Mr. Barkley agreed and added that he is glad to see key positions moving closer to the market average. Mr. Lehrkind agreed and commended the team.

**MOTION:** Mr. Switzer moved to approve the FY 2027 Gallatin Airport Authority Budget as proposed by staff. Mr. Mathis seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **6. Airport Business Report – Chris Pomeroy**

Tower operations for April were 10,824, which is up 22.5% from last April and up 29.2% YTD. Rolling 12-month operations were 128,192 compared to the record of 129,914. There were 435 corporate landings over 12,500 lbs., down 8% compared to last April and up 12.6% YTD. Corporate landings over 9,000 lbs. were 482, which is down 17% compared to last April and up 17.7% YTD. April saw 14 customs clearances which is a 16.7% increase over last

April and up 6.3% YTD. Total revenue enplanements were 82,245, which is up 9.6% for the month and up 8.2% YTD. Rolling 12-month enplanements were 1,437,879, a new record. Total deplanements were 79,171, which is an 8.3% increase since last April and an 8.5% increase YTD. Commercial airline landings were 823, which is up 25.3% compared to last April and up 11.8% YTD. The overall load factor was 74.6%, which is down 7.8% from last April and down 2.2% YTD. Fuel dispensed in March was 2,528,706 gallons dispensed, which is up 5.9% for the month and up 7.2% YTD.

Mr. Barkley asked if there is a correlation between load factors and oil prices/ticket prices. Mr. Sprenger said we can't see that at this point. The load factor is down compared to last year because we had runway construction last year which increased the load factor. April is typically a low load factor month. Looking into the summer we have 7% more seats in May-September. We are not seeing any more recent adjustments. If we talk to rental car companies, it will be a busy summer. Industry-wide, in the fall is when they start to worry, but they say that every year.

#### **7. Airport Operations Report – Chris Pomeroy**

Mr. Pomeroy, COO, directed attention to the runway deicing vehicle parked outside the conference room. The vehicle has a 4,000-gallon tank and 75-foot booms. Staff visited the factory, got some on-site training and saw the assembly process. We are looking forward to using it. We will still maintain the trailer unit as a redundant backup.

No updates on the tower moving from contract to FAA. Delegation sent out a letter on March 10. As of April 20, there has been no response. They will be following up.

Taxiway B extension is underway. The project is going well. The approximate 7,200 feet that will result upon completion is the longest one-time pavement project at BZN with the exception of Runway 12-30.

A public open house on the Environmental Assessment was held April 16. Roughly 53 people attended. Travis Eickman with Morrison-Maierle handled the noise station well. The public comment period closed April 24<sup>th</sup>. They are now working to review and respond to the comments.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, we were visited by U.S. Customs' Port Director and Assistant Port Director. Customs activity is increasing. We have a user-based fee system for customs. We've been asked if we are interested in expanded services with coverage 7 days per week with an additional agent.

We have our annual Part 139 compliance inspection next week. We have a new FAA inspector coming. The maintenance and operations teams are preparing for that. An annual Runway Safety Action Team meeting will be held next week as well.

Garrett Wise received Certified Member status with the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

Mr. Mathis said when they did Runway 3-21 they ran into some clay seams and asked if they had run into any problems with the Taxiway B extension project. Mr. Bell said a borrow waste area was exposed today that probably dates back to the 1940's that has some asphalt chunks to be removed.

#### **8. Airport CEO Report – Brian Sprenger**

Mr. Sprenger reported that April food, beverage and retail was up 15%. Parking was up 3% compared to April 2025. May to date passengers are up 6%. May to date food, beverage and retail are up 12% compared to May 2025. Parking May to date is 99% of last May.

We received a discretionary grant from the FAA for our Taxiway B project in the amount of \$3,207,606. That plus our entitlements gives us \$7,559,396 which covers almost all of the project. We will potentially use entitlements for next year to make up the difference. We had favorable bids which helped.

Mr. Sprenger met with the Montana Legislature Transportation Committee on May 11. We gave them a presentation about the airport, our growth and impacts. It was a good chance to meet with the committee. This is the first time in Mr. Sprenger's tenure that they took the time to talk with us.

Next month we will receive the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Schedule V – kitchen equipment. Preliminary numbers appear to be in line with expectations. We will also have an East Terminal Project update, including some interior samples for viewing.

Car condo leases are coming up. We propose to tie all the car condos into the most recent lease dates so they can be reviewed at the same time. We don't anticipate changes.

With our new private non-commercial land lease, we are receiving applications for the lower rate. We are doing hangar inspections and reviewing applications. We are also considering moving toward a consent agenda for the more regular items starting in July.

Mr. Mathis asked about changes on the state aeronautics level. Mr. Sprenger said his understanding is that going down to a program is a de-emphasis on aeronautics from the

Montana Department of Transportation. It seems to be part of a re-organization within the state government. We don't interact with state aeronautics as much as the smaller airports. Travis Eickman with Morrison-Maierle presented some background on potential staffing and operational changes within the state. Time will tell. We don't foresee any issues at this point. Communications have not been affected.

Mr. Mathis said Mr. Sprenger was the guest speaker at the Bozeman Kiwanis meeting in April. Mr. Mathis said it was the best presentation Mr. Sprenger has given and everyone in attendance agreed.

#### **9. Consider bills and approve for payment**

Standard bills for the month were sent in advance of the meeting. The additional bills were reviewed and detailed by Mr. Sprenger.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mathis moved to approve the bills for payment. Mr. Barkley seconded the motion. All board members voted aye. The motion carried.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.



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Mr. Lehrkind, Board Chairman