

**CITY OF ABILENE  
AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.  
Abilene Public Library  
209 NW 4<sup>th</sup> St. Abilene, KS 67410**

**Members Present:** Jim Price (Chair), Jim Curtis (ex-officio, Airport Manager), Steve Cathey, Jay Leusman (Vice Chair)

**Members Absent:** Ralph Viola (Member), Bruce Youtsey (Member)

**Staff Present:** City Manager Ron Marsh, Finance Director Leann Johnson

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Jim Price.

**Approval of Agenda & Meeting Minutes – 12/7/22, 2/8/23 & 3/8/23**

Jay moved to approve the agenda and minutes, seconded by Steve. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

**Business**

**Project/CIP Updates**

Memo from Diane Hofer, P.E.

No action.

**By-Laws**

According to Section Four: Meetings in the by-laws, regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the first Monday of each month.

No action.

**Airport Beacon Replacement, AWOS, and Hangar Replacement**

Discussion about Federal and State funding to apply for KAIP funds. City staff to confirm the hangar pad is not in the flood plain.

No action.

**Courtesy Cars**

Jim Curtis asked about getting courtesy cars. Will be discussed further during the budget and CIP process.

No action.

**Adjournment**

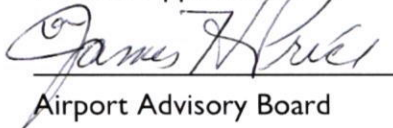
Jim Curtis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jay. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Attest:



Leann Johnson, Finance Director

Minutes Approved/



Airport Advisory Board

# MEMO

**RE:** Status of Airport Projects  
Abilene Municipal Airport (K78)

**FROM:** Diane Hofer, P.E.

**DATE:** April 7, 2023

**Easement Acquisition.** One of the easement areas has been reduced, as shown on the attached. The city continues to negotiate. FAA has been informed of delays due to these negotiations. A FY23 grant is anticipated, with an estimated amount of \$62,000, but a negotiated settlement will be needed in the next 60-80 days to meet FAA's final deadlines.

**Displaced Threshold Environmental Review.** Olsson is preparing an update to the 2021 Environmental Assessment report to add the displaced threshold. Because the area may be home to endangered and threatened species, we've requested review comments from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks. The comment period concludes next week. The report is temporarily on hold, pending the status of the easement acquisition.

**AGIS Survey.** This aerial survey is needed for 1) current data on tree heights; and 2) the displaced threshold's future instrument approach procedure. Olsson's contract has been approved and a project application has been sent to FAA. A FY23 grant is expected soon, in the amount of \$85,500. The survey will begin as soon as the grant is received.

**Tree Removal / Trimming.** When all easements have been acquired, Olsson will prepare an agreement to draw up plans and specifications for the tree removals and trimming. The construction can only be done in fall & winter, to avoid the nesting season of endangered birds and bats. If the easements are acquired in the next 2-3 months, the goal is to advertise for bids in October and begin the work in November. If the easements are delayed, this project will likely be delayed a year until Autumn 2024. An FY24 BIL (bi-partisan infrastructure law) grant is planned.

**Displaced Threshold.** The threshold would be displaced 186 feet. New threshold lights, PAPIs and REILs would be installed at the new location. Upon completion of the easements and AGIS survey, Olsson will draft an agreement to prepare the plans and specifications for this work. If all goes well, construction could begin in Spring 2024. Delays in any of the above items would have a domino effect, and delay this work too. An FY24 grant is anticipated, which would include the environmental review costs.

**Hangar.** If the above actions are on schedule, the Olsson would propose to begin design in the fall of 2023. FAA won't likely issue a grant until FY25 for partial funding, with the remaining funds available in FY26 and FY27. The city will have to determine what they can afford to build in advance of these grants.