



Bentonville Municipal Airport  
Airport Advisory Board – Minutes  
Thursday, November 6, 2025 – 3:00 pm  
Bentonville City Hall – 305 SW “A” Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
*(& Via Zoom Webinar)*

Audio Recording: <https://bentonvillear.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1940/media>

**I. Call to Order, Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance – Brian Baldwin, Chairman**

Brian Baldwin welcomed everyone and called the meeting to Order. He led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance. For the record, we do have a quorum with three (3) members here. He mentioned that Daniel Hughes is our newest member and passed through the City Council meeting, the seat was open and he is now an official member.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

The board moved this to the end of the agenda, so we would have a quorum of voting members. Daniel Hughes was not a member during the October meeting and could not vote on them. They were waiting to see if we had a quorum that could vote on this issue.

**III. Geese Control Report – Robin Fields**

Robin appeared at the meeting and reported that everything was good at the airport. He said it had been rather slow as of late. He said that this morning they chased off between 20 and 24 birds from the swamp area. He has been seeing more birds fly over every day, but it has been rather slow. Maverick is doing well. They went to the vet about 2 weeks ago and he is ½ lb. heavier than he was last year, but he is in super health.

Robin then reported that he would be retiring November 14, 2025, to work for Walmart. Maverick is still young. He is about 5 ½ years old and he is going to go to Chris Isbell from the Police Department and Chris is going to work him just like I did, and on the same schedules. Chris is a 20-year police officer and is a well-liked individual at the police department. He took him around the airport and introduced him to quite a few people there. He will ride with Robin all next week also before he retires. Chris will be Maverick’s handler after that. Robin told the board that this job had been the best job of his life and that he was going to miss it a lot. He thanked the board for the opportunity to work for them. Chairman Baldwin publicly acknowledged all the work Robin has done and how much they all appreciated him. Robin came in during a time when there was a lot of confusion going on as to how we would take care of the situation

that was detrimental to aviation in our area. He and Maverick came along at the right time and set the tone and did all the right things to the best of his ability to mitigate the potential for accidents. There have been very few incidents where birds are impacting or connecting with moving aircraft. He said that we will miss Robin. Brian also welcomed Chris Isbell and thanked him for being a part of our future. Chad Cox mentioned that Robin and Maverick were brought in for wildlife mitigation and they have done a fantastic job, but that it wouldn't be fair not to mention other things that he has brought. He has brought a stronger sense of community to the airport. Everyone loves Robin and Maverick. We will miss Robin. He said also that they brought a security presence that wasn't there before. We've had people that would sometimes camp out in a plane from the shelter nearby. You could always count on Robin to be that little extra security at the airport. He went above and beyond and echoed everything that was said.

#### **IV. New Business:**

##### **A. Engineering and Construction Updates: Chris Maestri/Ginny Lantz, Garver**

###### **Current Airport Projects:**

Chris Maestri and Ginny Lantz were present with us at the meeting to give their report. He also had some CIP items to go over. They turn that in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

##### **VBT E. Taxiway Extension – Ph. 2**

This pavement has been open for the last couple of months. They are still working on some punch list items, so there have been days that the pavement was closed back down to either do some grinding on the asphalt to make sure it meets the smoothness requirement of the FAA and/or touch up paint and seal those grinded areas. That's really what we are waiting for to get this project finished. When the punch list items are done, Garver will put together a close-out package to get our final reimbursement from the FAA and then we will get a state grant and we will be finished up with that one.

##### **VBT Hangar Access Road (ADA Grant)**

Garver got feedback from the City Street Department that it is probably not going to be until the spring for them to come and finish out the remainder of their portion of scope. That includes paving. The current section of the north/south stretch of road that has base on it right now, as well as constructing the rest of the pavement section further south where Neighborhood I is right now. They are still working on hangars in that area, so we won't touch the earth work or base work until they are out of that with their heavy equipment.

##### **VBT East Parking Apron (ADA Grants)**

We have been talking recently about moving those grant funds over to another location on the airport, specifically south of the circular apron. Currently the CIP shows the east parking apron as a dual funded project, meaning we are going to use some FAA money and some state money if we're still allowed to use state money in that location. We are showing this as a project in 2026, so all of the dates you see on the sheet Chris handed out are based off of an estimated start time sometime in December where we would finish up design in the January/February time frame and put that out to bid in March/April, and have a grant application together in the summer, and potentially start constructing that

next fall. Brian Baldwin then mentioned that from the work session they had, the opportunity did not avail itself of a face-to-face meeting with our state contact, so he thinks in the next two to three weeks it would be in our best interest to get down there and see if we can move that money over. Mark Slaughter said he thinks doing that and meeting them face to face would be better. They will try and coordinate to do that. If they don't let us do that and for some reason take that grant money back in the absolute worse case scenario, the amount of AIG money that we have access to for five years, we have enough to cover that entire project on the east side.

### **VBT Taxiway A Pavement Rehabilitation (ADA Grant)**

Most recently Garver opened bids on that project in mid-October. They got good numbers back, and they currently working with the apparent low bidder to bring in some potential additional rehabilitation scope, if it fits within our budget, and within the limits of what we can negotiate. They did get some preliminary pricing back from them this week that they are reviewing and trying to have something ready to get to the city council meeting for the 25<sup>th</sup> to award. If they could get a construction contract in place in early December, they may try to do some of that work this year. Otherwise, it's likely going to push to the spring. All in all, Garver got some good bids. Regardless of adding this additional rehab scope, they are going to be well below what the estimate was with the ADA grant, which means our sponsor's share is well below what it was estimated to be as well.

At this time, Garver handed out a couple of sheets regarding the CIP and he went over a few of the highlights for the next several years and had some discussion. *These documents are attached hereto as a part of these minutes.*

### **B. Updates from the Field – Adam Jones, Manager – Legends Air Center**

Adam Jones appeared to give his report. He said things are starting to settle down after their transition. They had a good October. The Flight School did two check rides in October. They have eight scheduled for November. They had a little over 500 hours of flight time, but they lost about week due to weather. New students totaled 9 in October. We are about to see a big push on Discovery flights for Christmas. The FBO sold 14,400 of 100 Low Lead, which was down from a year ago. However, they sold 40,408 of Jet A, which was their best month ever. That was up from 34,300 the year before. They have a new charter plane on service; a little Cirrus is back in service after an engine overhaul. The maintenance facility is starting to turn out some outside business.

### **C. City of Bentonville Updates – Mark Slaughter, Airport Manager**

- Neighborhood One

Mark shared a presentation that he shared at the Mayor's Staff Meeting this Morning. They talked about Neighborhood One. The dirt had to be removed, and there are six hangars going in there. He shared what was going on there at this time. He mentioned that they were laying some rebar this morning. He showed the footings for Hangar #2 and said that they should be pouring the slab for Hangar #4 soon. Hangar #6 belongs to Paul Cantrell and we have red steel going up. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, they were out there moving dirt. It could take 6 months to move it all, but it is being done. This is

good news. Mark also talked about stormwater problems. He told us that he is going to use prisoners from the Benton County Jail to help clean out all the concrete ditches, dirt ditches, and sandbags that have been left behind by previous construction project. I'll have them throw big rocks in holes to help with the erosion. He mentioned that the grass and silt mixes together and becomes like adobe and it covers a grate and doesn't let water in. You must get a hammer to break it up. After a recent rain, there was water coming over the taxiway. It also knocked down a portion of a retaining wall that is on the NW side of the extension that goes up into the lake. Mark only obtained one bid for fixing this and it was \$3000.00. He will be searching to get this done cheaper. Mark also showed the airport vehicle that the city has given us. It is a 2013 Traverse. It is not in good shape. He will be looking for another vehicle. There was more discussion about this and what we might be able to obtain. Mark will talk with the city more about a snowplow, as well.

- **ADA Grant for Eastside Parking Apron**

In his presentation he spoke a little bit about the grant that we want to switch from the east side to something permeable on the south end of the circular apron. Brian and I will bet down to Little Rock and talk with Jerry and Richard sometime soon on this.

- **Operation Land Grab**

Mark also talked about Operation Land Grab that he has mentioned previously. The airport is growing and every piece of land out there has been spoken for. We still need to acquire some more land for the west taxiway. The only opportunities are in the southeast portion of the airport. There is a lot of work to do out there to potentially get 15 hangars – 52 x 56 – about 45,000 sq. ft. of hangar space. We talked about maybe \$.75/sq. ft. This would be about \$38,000 to \$39,000 a year.

The last thing that he talked about was Robin Fields leaving the city, which we discussed earlier.

## **V. Other Business:**

### **A. Projects and Priorities – Brian Baldwin, Chairman**

Brian thanked Mark for the focus he puts on our airport and turning over a lot of the rocks and looking at every little thing that we need to do to make the airport better. We recently had a situation where the FAA accidentally put NOTAM in place that essentially closed the GPS 36 approach. It took a lot to get to the bottom of who did it and why and we still do not know that. But, thanks to Mark, he researched and found somebody to lift the NOTAM. That was the only way anybody was going to land at Bentonville that day.

## **VI. Closing:**

### **A. Next AAB Meeting Schedule**

At this time, Brian Baldwin asked if Cara Osborne made it to the meeting and she had not. He asked Bonnie Bridges whether Daniel Hughes, just coming in, was able to vote on the approval of the minutes from the October meeting even though he was not here at the previous meeting. She responded that no, he could not speak to the minutes from

October, because he would not know if they were accurate or not. Brian asked if we should just table the approval of the October minutes to the next meeting. Bonnie agreed this would be good. ***Beau Walker moved to table approval of the October meeting minutes until the next meeting. Daniel Hughes gave a second. Motion passed.***

Brian mentioned that he will be traveling out of the country for the first two weeks of December, so he will not be here for the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. However, he wants the board to go ahead and meet. The other members present were good with this. So, our next meeting will be on December 4, 2025, at 3:00 pm. Brian Baldwin will attempt to join by Zoom.

Chad Cox then mentioned that the next step for them is to get the ground lease on the hangars. McClelland Engineers will help with Environmental – Phase I and all that other kind of stuff. They had their first site walk today to look at it. He asked the board to be thinking about what it is going to take to get to that next step of executing a ground lease. Their data is in order where they can provide all information needed.

**B. Motion to Adjourn:**

***Daniel Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Beau Walker gave a second. Motion passed.***

***Meeting adjourned.***

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