

# Work at Innovation Park to start today

*Avionics Manager Case  
hired to help with airplane  
maintenance and care*

**BY REANNE PALMER**  
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

**MT. VERNON** — Nearly every seat at the Airport Authority Board meeting was filled Tuesday evening as a variety of matters were discussed, from Innovation Park to insurance renewals to recently-hired personnel.

The board members approved a \$400,000 finance agreement with Bean Capital Development Center to begin work on Innovation Park as soon as possible.

Carey Lipps of Lipps Construction was present during the meeting and said that, though there is no formal contract yet, work will start today on the project.

"Even though there's no contract, we're working on stuff. I think things are going really well myself. We're starting [today]," he said.

Brian Edmison of Edmison & Associates was also present to inform the board that contracts are almost ready for approval.

"We did receive bids on this project and we've worked to bring the construction costs back down. The contracts should be ready for review soon," he said.

The board also approved four colors for the new hangar, trim, door and roof with the project.

Airport Manager Chris Collins then told the board that airport officials will soon be meeting with representatives from the city of Mt. Vernon to work on relocating a fire hydrant in connection with Innovation Park.

Also during the meeting, recently-hired Avionics Manager Jimmy

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## Airport:

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Case of Walnut Hill introduced himself and talked about his past experience in the field. He has worked in the field of avionics for 34 years and came to the airport to be closer to home from his previous position in Chicago.

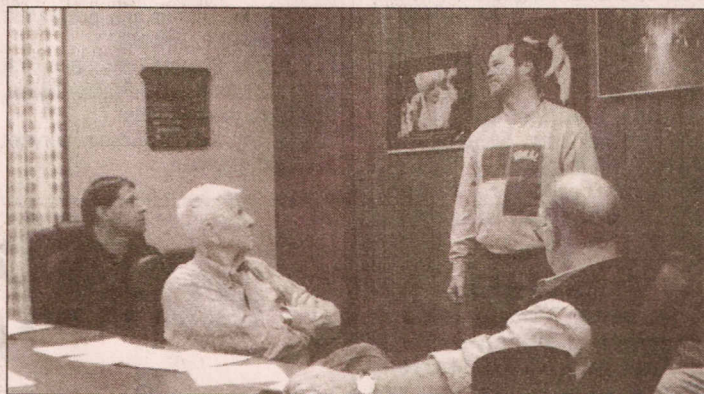
"I've got a lot of broad range experience on all sorts of avionics," said Case. "As it is, I see between two or three planes every day with avionics problems now. I came here to be an asset."

Case was hired so that the airport could expand a hangar for an avionics lab, which would bring in more people with avionics problems into the area. No numbers have been presented and no formal discussions have taken place regarding the lab addition.

### **IN OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The board approved Collins to hold a surplus auction to sell the parts of an old building that the airport cannot use. Collins said there are trusses, garage doors, posts, steel and wood objects that would likely bring in several thousand dollars for the airport.

"I'd like to see what kinds of funds we can get out of it," he said. "I've already had a couple phone calls about



Sentinel Photo/REANNE PALMER

**NEW WORKER** — Jimmy Case, **STANDING**, the recently hired avionics manager at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, introduced himself Tuesday evening during the Airport Board meeting. Also pictured are, **SEATED, FROM LEFT**, Airport Manager Chris Collins, Board Member Joe Bob Pierce and Board Member Mike Ancona.

those trusses."

- The board approved a renewal for Workman's Comp and Liability Insurance for the airport at the rate of \$16,812, nearly a \$6,000 increase over last year's rate. Collins attributed the increase to an accident on the airport's property early last year. The renewal is with QBE North America.

- The board approved a contract with Mike Beard Insurance Store for the director's and officer's insurance rates. Overall, the rates decreased by \$30 to \$2,429.

- The board approved the leasing of the Koziara Terminal Suite B to Jerry Van Houtin and Full Gospel Ministries for \$850 per month.

The suite was previously leased by the American Red Cross, whose lease would have been up in August of this year. Van Houtin said the group would like to move in around March or April.

- Collins announced to the board that Board Member Galen Monk is leaving the board to pursue other opportunities. Board President Greg Martin thanked Monk for his time on the board.

"It's been a real pleasure to work with you and I know you've helped out Chris a lot while you've been here. Thank you and the best of luck," he said.

- The board approved the minutes, treasurer's report and bills for the month.

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