

# Mt. Vernon Outland Airport to stabilize property taxes

*Property taxes  
abated by \$15,000  
for fiscal year 2016*

**BY EMILY ROTH**  
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance on Tuesday at their regular meeting to abate \$15,000 in property taxes to be levied in 2016.

The abatement was due to airport officials not wanting to raise taxes within their taxing district.

“Basically when we went into the bond issuance, I think all of us were under the assumption that our debt service extension base had increased,” explained Airport Director Chris Collins. “So we took an equivalent increase on this bond issue that we did. So we went from \$205,900 up to \$220,000 because we were told that our debt service extension base went up to \$230,000 ... We promised the taxpayers in the bond issuance and in Momentum 2020 that there would be little to no tax increase and we went forward to everything.”

Please see **Airport**, Page 6A

## Airport:

*Continued From Page 1B*

“About the time we were finalizing everything I began looking at the equilized assessed valuations (EAV) for the last 15 years or so, and I noticed something that kind of jumped out at me. 2008 and 2009 the EAV of the district was \$195 million in 2014, and in 2015 it was \$196 million.”

Because the EAV decreased to later climb

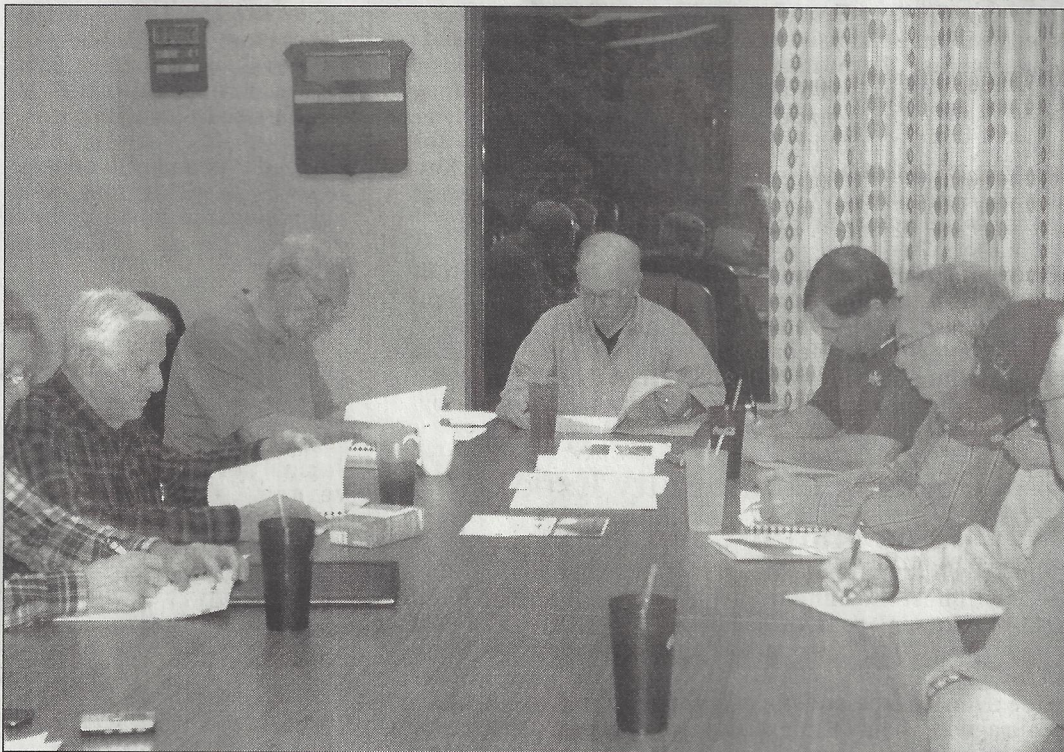
back, there was little increase in EAV since the last issuance. According to Collins, increasing the bond and interest levy from \$205,900 to \$220,000 without a considerable increase in EAV would result in a noticeable tax increase, which is what Collins and the airport board wanted to avoid.

Under the ordinance, the County Clerk’s office would amend the tax levy schedule reflecting a \$15,000 reduction of the bond and interest levy. This places the levy back to \$205,900 and stabilizes the overall tax rate.

“What it does to the airport is assuming that we keep it \$205,900 every year, instead of having \$651,000 in our account to do projects, we’re only going to have \$588,000,” continued Collins. “So we’re going to have to eliminate a few projects, which is okay. You do the ones you have to do and postpone the ones that are on the wish list.”

Collins apologized for the abatement and indicated that he and the airport have always strived for transparency and spending within their expected budget.

*eroth@morningsentinel.com*



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**TAX TALK** — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners discusses the Tuesday night agenda. The board voted to abate \$15,000 in property taxes.

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