

Outland Airport flight school without plane

Cessna 172 was sold in February, leaving one plane for SRT Aviation

BY EMILY ROTH

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport's Fixed-Based Operator (FBO), SRT Aviation, is now without an airplane, leaving flight students without a vehicle on which to practice.

"We leased our Cessna 172 last Saturday and decided to sell it," explained Richard Carney, president of SRT Aviation during Tuesday's monthly airport board meeting. "So with no notice people came in. We were told Friday night that somebody was going to look at it Saturday morning. They

came in and within a matter of minutes bought the airplane and flew it out of here. It left us with four flight instructors, bunches of students, and we are getting lots of calls ... they're out to water because of this."

Currently the FBO still has a Jabiru J230 SP light sport aircraft.

"We've got some students about ready to take their check rides and now they are without an airplane," said Carney. "We're out looking right now. I'm sure there's some upset students right now and renters that have been renting this plane. For us, the Team Mt. Vernon concept kind of went out the window."

"No, it didn't, it's alive and well," interjected Board Chairman Mike Ancona. "Let me just kick

Please see **Plane**, Page 6A



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

PLANE PURCHASE — The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Authority Board of Commissioners including, FROM LEFT, Chairman Mike Ancona, Airport Director Chris Collins and Commissioner Greg Martin met Tuesday night. The board discussed purchasing a new plane for the airport's Fixed-Based Operator.

Plane:

Continued From Page 1A

this off by saying there is money in the flightline account ... and in my way of thinking, this is no different than the [hangar] door. This is all about SRT. This is all about promotion of the airport. We're going to figure out

a way to help you buy a plane. it's as simple as that."

Ancona instructed Carney to begin shopping for an airplane, and the board would discuss payment options when the time came.

"The flight school is helping the whole community," said Carney.

Ancona explained that the flightline account is for both the airport itself and for the FBO. He indicated that the account is a resource that was

set in place for sudden situations such as the airplane sale.

"This is an area that's the growth of the airport and the economy," stated Commissioner Gary Chesney. "If they don't train here, they'll train somewhere else."

A motion was made by Commissioner Eddie Lee for the board to aid SRT in the acquisition of a new plane. The motion was unanimously approved by the board.

eroth@morningsentinel.com

3-10-16