

Circus to stay over holiday confirms airport board

100-member organization to perform April 19, then experience King City

BY EMILY ROTH
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The circus is not only coming to town, but is willing to keep their operation in Mt. Vernon over the Easter holiday and boost local commerce.

Last month a motion was passed by the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners to bring the Kelly Miller Circus to Mt. Vernon, where the circus would perform on the airport grounds. With the circus in town the Saturday before Easter, and later traveling to a Monday show in Carmi, the board asked the circus staff if they

would be willing to stay in King City through the Easter holiday.

Chris Collins, airport director, informed the board during their Tuesday night meeting that the circus had agreed to stay the extra day.

"They're gonna do their circus on Saturday and take Easter off," explained Collins, "and then go to Carmi. So in lieu of charging them an appearance use for the grounds, the board came up with a good idea in having them stay in Mt. Vernon and leave Monday morning. That way they would be in our city spending their money here rather than being somewhere else."

Not all plans were solidified, as Collins and the rest of the board voiced concerns which required clarification.

Please see **Circus**, Page 3A

Circus:

Continued From Page 1A

"The only thing on the contract that I'm unsure on is that they want us to do a locate of the utilities," he stated. "It doesn't cost any money but that's a phone call and a little bit of coordination. That's the only thing that I see, but I want to send it to an attorney and get his blessing on it."

The board brought up reservations that they believed the contractor and any parting digging on the grounds should make those inquiries, not the grounds owner. This concern was agreed to be brought to the

attorney's attention as well.

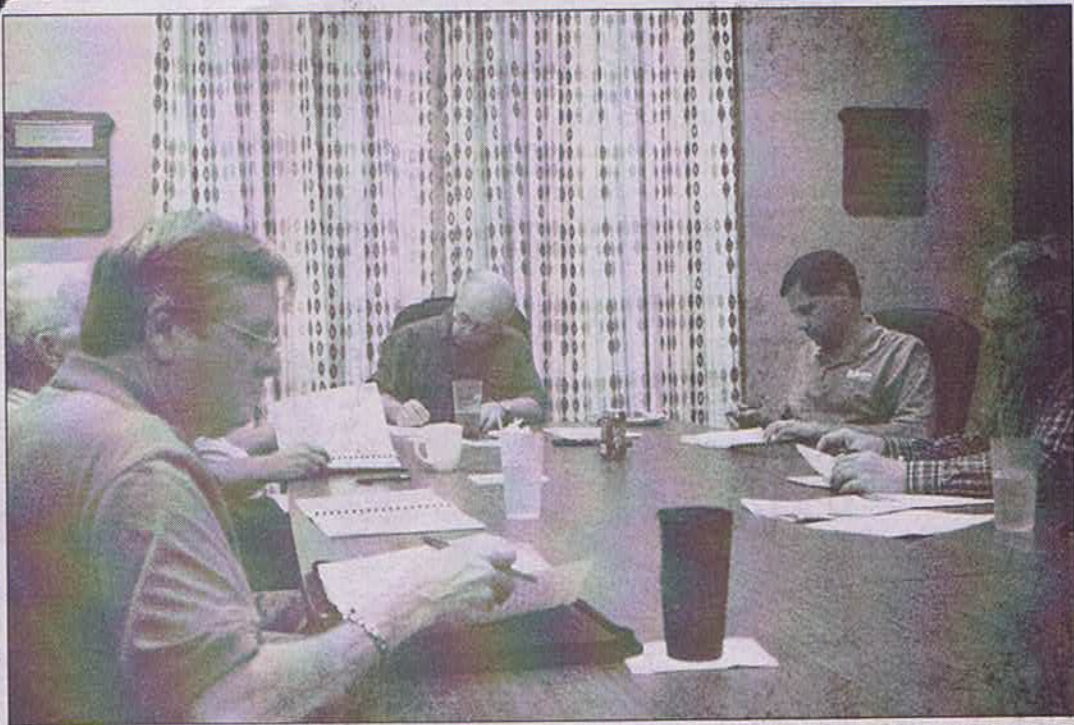
IN OTHER NEWS:

- The making of a new promotional marketing video on the airport's website was approved. As the existing one is several years old, Collins referred to it as "dated" and needing to display the current facilities.

- Bids were approved for the Innovation Park project, with bids awarded to Lowe's

for drywall and suspended ceiling components, Associated Lumber for doors, and Southern Illinois Tile and Carpet for flooring.

- The board decided not to meet in an executive session to discuss personnel and approved a raise for Sheila Jolly-Scriver, administrative assistant. 3-12-17
eroth@morningsentinel.com



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

ALL ABOARD — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners holds their monthly meeting on Tuesday night. Among topics discussed were the continuation of the Innovation Park project and updating the marketing video for the airport website.