

# Mt. Vernon Airport to install sidewalk, purchase new lawnmower

*Airport board makes decisions Tuesday regarding purchases of supplies and equipment*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Where the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners is concerned, sometimes necessary solutions come from within.

At Tuesday night's board meeting, decisions were made regarding two issues: purchasing a new lawnmower and pouring the concrete for a new sidewalk.

According to Chris Collins, airport director, bids were received on Tuesday before the meeting from two different contractors to construct the sidewalk. For supplies and labor, Sheridan Concrete

placed a bid of \$2,449 and Lipps Construction placed a bid of \$3,349.

With \$100 a yard and a cost of \$256 in concrete if the board was to purchase the materials, Collins proposed to have the airport maintenance crew pour it themselves.

"I thought the cost was a little high. ... We can pour a sidewalk," said Collins. "We've done a couple of them here already. To me there's a principle to it that maybe it's a little high."

Instead of accepting any bids, the board agreed with Collins' plan to save money. The sidewalk is to be 4 inches thick and 4 feet wide. Wire will also be installed in the

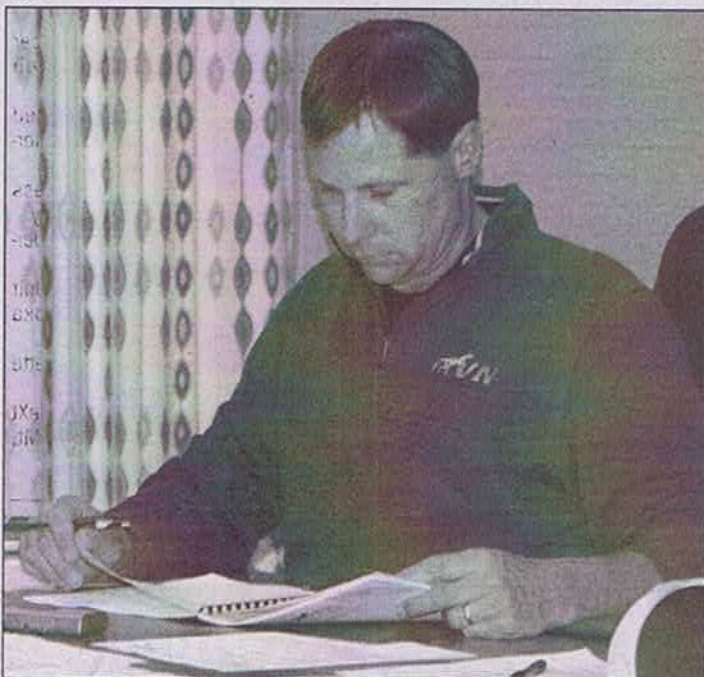
sidewalks for further support.

"If we do it, we gotta make sure we don't do it like this one out here that was 18 inches wide," said Collins, referring to a current sidewalk much smaller than the one of discussion. "I think we'll just tackle it, so the change order will just be for concrete costs and I'll bring that up next month."

The other item decided upon was a new lawnmower for the airport. The two currently in operation are in good condition, Collins stated, but are outdated. The two options proposed were to either buy a new lawnmower and trade in the older of the current mowers, made in the 1990s, or to purchase another and keep all three. The older lawnmower would earn \$2,000 in trade.

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Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**FINANCIAL REPORT** — Airport Director Chris Collins reviews figures during the treasurer's report portion of the Mt. Vernon Airport Board meeting held Tuesday night. Collins reported that the airport was \$27,000 "in the black."

## Airport:

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The board proposed buying a new mower and keeping all three in the event of needing a spare. Due to the Government Joint Purchasing Act, local governments are given the authority to waive any procurement rules when purchasing from publicly-let, open-bid contracts. Because of this, the airport can more promptly purchase the lawnmower.

Government plans also aid the Mt. Vernon Airport in procuring a new lawnmower in another way. Because of their placement on the 2009 Capital Improvement Program, the airport may purchase equipment such as lawnmowers at a lower rate. The cost for the new mower would be \$21,213.31, while it would cost nearly \$33,000 if purchased at a retail price.

After discussion, the motion was passed to purchase the mower.

### IN OTHER NEWS:

- The annual Illinois Aviation Conference will be held on May 15 in Collinsville. Because of the nearby location, Collins invited board members to attend. He also indicated that he would be honored this year at the conference and encouraged the board to join him.

- According to Collins, construction on the old hangar is "99 percent done."

- One change order for additional electrical work was approved for the amount of \$1,409.

- The Kelly Miller Circus which the airport is set to host on April 19 had no problems to report. The airport is ready for the show, as Collins said that "everything looks good."

- Past meeting minutes, the treasurer's report and bills were all approved.

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