

# Airport Board talks Balloons

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MT. VERNON — The main topic of discussion at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Board meeting Tuesday was the hiring of a balloonmeister to oversee Balloons Over Mt. Vernon.

The Balloons over Mt. Vernon and Fly-in events are scheduled for Oct. 16 through 18.

"The balloonmeister is someone who oversees the entire event," said Chris Collins, Airport Manager. "They work with the FAA, the insurance companies and does all of the waivers and things like that."

A motion was passed to hire a balloonmeister from Skycab Balloon Promotions for a charge of \$2,100. The airport hopes to get reimbursed through sponsors for the event.

"We've taken this event from a small event to a big event in terms of the number of balloons," Collins said. "There is several events and competitions that we're going to do and the Flight Standards District office told me that there is quite a procedure to follow and they have to have a manual, which is a complicated process that can't be taken lightly, so they recommended we go with one of these balloonmeisters."

Another major topic of discussion was a new energy contract. At last month's meeting it was decided to seek out bids from different energy companies.

"The goal was to get bids in and get a contract signed before the end of March to try to take advantage of lower rates," Collins said.

After contacting local energy suppliers, Nordic Energy Services turned in the lowest bid at a rate of .050 per kilowatt hour. A new energy

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contract has not been signed.

Another topic of the meeting was a discussion about innovation to Park Hangar 2.

It was discussed to build a new Hangar on the grounds to be able to house corporate planes.

"If we move some money from the private plane sector and move it over to the corporate sector, we can increase corporate activity," said Mike Ancona, board chairman. "It's not to say we don't care about private planes because we do, it's just that corporate activity pays the bills and we need to pursue corporate activity in Mt. Vernon."

A motion was passed to revitalize Taxiway B and Taxiway E.

The next board meeting will be the election of new officers. 4-15-15