

# State asserts airport owes \$19,000

*Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins indicated he has not been contacted by the Illinois Department of Revenue*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

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MT. VERNON — On Tuesday night, Airport Director Chris Collins informed the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners he discovered a report from the state of Illinois stating the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport owes the state over \$19,000.

According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, the airport owes a total of \$19,786.28. Collins told the board this occurred due to an accounting mistake by the Illinois Department of Revenue which lead to an overpayment of 6,500 taxing districts across the state.

Even though the airport was allegedly affected by the misallocation, the state has not contacted the airport to request payment as of yet.

"We still have no official contact from the Illinois Department of Revenue with a plan of action," stated Collins. "It looks like we owe \$19,786.28. Spread over the fiscal years, the overpayment totals \$6,595 a year. With our strong surplus each year, this overpayment does not effect our bottom lines."

He informed the board that if the airport was to repay the funds, they would still operate in the black.

"We finished with \$18,000 and \$20,000 surpluses over the last three years," explained Collins. "Even if they went back and made adjustments in our books, we would still be good."

Collins also informed the board that should the state ask for the repayment of funds, he is not sure how soon the airport would have to pay.

"We had noticed that our personal property replacement taxes had been a little more the last couple years, but you just don't question

that when you're used to getting a revenue stream from the state," he said. "I'm sure that my counterparts at the other taxing districts are looking at it the same way I was. It's just something you don't do, question the state of Illinois. They seem to be the ultimate authority on such matters."

The matter of the state misappropriations was discussed in conjunction with the passing of a tentative budget for the fiscal year. Under the projected budget, the airport plans to earn \$513,210 in revenue and spend \$511,415 in expenditures. The current amount of cash on hand is \$142,926.81, and the airport projects to have \$145,721.81 in cash on hand by April 30, 2017.

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Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**BUDGET ASSESSMENT** — Airport Director Chris Collins looks over the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport budget on Tuesday night during the full meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Collins indicated that the airport is currently operating in the black, and would continue to do so if forced to pay funds misallocated by the State of Illinois.

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