

# Airport Board discusses security equipment purchase

*With no video surveillance system currently in place, Director Chris Collins suggests purchasing cameras to monitor primary locations*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — A new security system will soon be installed at the Mt. Vernon Airport, a feature Director Chris Collins calls "long needed."

During Tuesday night's monthly meeting of the Airport Board of Commissioners, Collins proposed purchasing security cameras which would be used to continuously record activity at five areas of the airport.

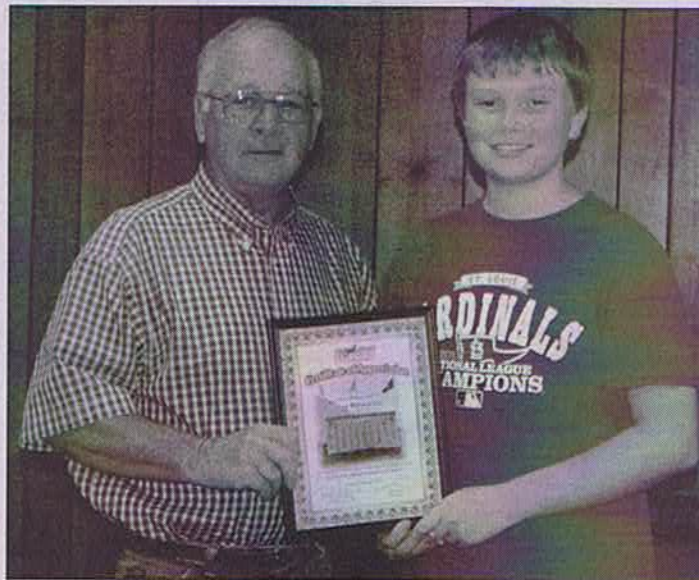
The cameras would monitor the airport's Military Museum, parking lot, airline gate, fuel trucks and

flight line.

"In this terminal," said Collins, "with the addition of the Military Museum, the weaponry we have, the motorcycle here, it really needs cameras."

Though Collins originally suggested that the monitors recording the camera feeds would be placed in the security room, the board recommended that the screens be placed in an office where they may be more easily watched. Collins took the suggestion under consideration.

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Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**SHOWING APPRECIATION** — Mike Ancona, the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners chairman, awards Jason Barciszewski a certificate of appreciation during Tuesday's board meeting in Mt. Vernon. Barciszewski earned the award through his volunteer work clearing overgrown prairie grass around the Jefferson County Heroes memorial.

## Airport:

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This may only be the first step in purchasing security equipment, as Collins referred to the project as "expandable."

"This system could be expandable," he said. "This is just kind of getting the primary locations covered right now."

After stating that he thought having cameras at the airport is a good idea, Chairman Mike Ancona questioned why no cameras had been purchased before.

"Honestly I wanted to do it and I couldn't figure out how," answered Collins. "I wanted it to be something to do to try to save money and I never could get it to work with the different locations."

As well as monitoring the Military Museum, Collins was also concerned with preventing the theft of fuel.

Currently two businesses are bidding for the security system contract with the airport: Security Alarm Corporation in Salem and Electronic Architects in Mt. Vernon.

The board passed a motion to purchase the system at Collins' discretion after researching what the different companies could offer.

### IN OTHER NEWS:

- New front doors and tiles to the airport terminal are installed and operational.

- The airport will host U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) training on June 26.

- Jason Barciszewski was awarded a certificate of appreciation for his volunteer work in cleaning prairie grass from around the outside the Jefferson County Heroes memorial.

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eroth@morningsentinel.com