

Airport announces \$438k grant for taxiway work

Local funds to be approximately \$22k for construction in 2014

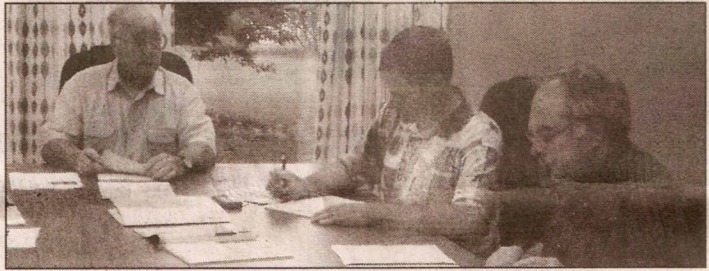
BY REANNE PALMER
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Members of the Mt. Vernon Airport Board of Commissioners announced a \$438,000 grant to be used in fiscal year 2014 for taxiway rehabilitation and improvements during the monthly board meeting Tuesday evening.

The grant, received by the airport thanks to the work of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) representatives Mike McCue and B.J. Murray, is through the Division of Aeronautics. More than half of the grant will come from state and federal funding.

Of the total \$438,444 grant, the General Aviation Entitlement — which the airport receives annually from the federal government — is \$148,500 of the total. There will be an additional \$246,100 from the state and \$21,922 in local funds to work on the northeastern taxiway.

"The airport is a viable support in this community and it brings lots of money and



Sentinel Photo/REANNE PALMER

FUTURE GRANT TALKS — Members of the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Board discuss future grant funding from both state and federal governments Tuesday evening during the board's regular monthly meeting. Those pictured are, FROM LEFT, Chairman Mike Ancona, Airport Manager Chris Collins and Board Member Greg Martin.

employment to the community," said Board Chairman Mike Ancona. "This is just an example that the airport is still moving forward."

Board members also heard updates on the on-going Innovation Park project.

Ancona said that he went to the location Tuesday morning to see the updates for himself.

"I went out there today. They're putting in the footings before they put the rock in. I think the plumber is coming Friday," he said. "It's really moving along."

Airport Manager Chris Collins added that the building is already at the work site and will be installed as soon as preliminary work is complete.

"If the weather would just cooperate, we'll keep on going," said Ancona.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- The board was informed that the next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. July 9.

- Board members approved the minutes, treasurer's report and bills.

- The board approved a health insurance premium

increase of \$85, bringing the total health insurance premium up to \$1,744 per month with Health Alliance.

- Board members also approved additions to the property and equipment insurance per Collins' request. He said that, on previous insurance, premium costs did not include three rental houses. The additional premium cost is \$1,393 per year for the rental property on a three-year policy.

"It was an oversight, but neither of the insurance guys caught it either," said Collins.

- The board unanimously tabled three additions to the personnel policy guide for research reasons: whistleblowing, conflict of interest and drug-free workplace and testing.

- Board members approved a raise for Administrative Assistant Sheila Jolly-Scrivner after she completes her 90-day probationary period.

"I've been very impressed by Sheila. I'm really glad we got her," said board member Greg Martin.

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