

Airport board approves obstruction removal

Trees to be removed in order to improve flight visibility

BY EMILY ROTH
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — A number of projects involving grounds upkeep were discussed during Tuesday's monthly meeting of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners, including an obstruction removal project and signage.

The board approved a bid from Branden Cline and Undercut Tree Service in Fairfield for \$9,500. Bids were opened on May 24.

"We received two bids on May 24th. The low bid was from a company called Undercut Tree Service

at \$9,500 and CSJ Tree Services was \$9,800," explained Airport Director Chris Collins. "I was pretty happy the bids were real similar. I checked everything with Undercut Tree Services, references and things like that and I recommend that we go with Undercut at \$9,500. We've already went back out and marked all the trees. We're waiting for all the hay to be removed."

The FAA has determined that a line of trees along a fence row is a visual obstruction to flight paths. Once the trees are removed, they will be hauled away from the airport grounds.

Michal Junik, a current student of SIUC and new intern for the airport recently completed his first project: designing various signs as assigned by Collins.

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Submitted Photo

SAFETY SIGNAGE — Three signs were approved on Tuesday during the monthly meeting of the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Board of Commissioners. While the sign on the right indicates a cargo area, the two signs on the left were for safety purposes around the lake.

Airport:

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"These are for places that need signs around the airport," stated Collins. "One of the issues around our lake is that our insurance company came and did an audit in late winter, the first of spring and asked me to put some signs out alerting people that they are not authorized to swim or boat on our lake. So we came up with four signs. We welcome people to the airport, we want to make sure that the welcome mat is out, but

be also ask people to please observe the following: no swimming, no boating, no activities after sunset without prior permission."

On the signs around the lake will also be the airport's phone number to report unsafe conditions. Also set out will be a new "No Unauthorized Vehicles Beyond This Point" sign due to cars driving on the airport dam. An air cargo sign will also be placed at Gate 2.

"We do an awful lot of cargo now," explained Collins, "there's a freighter out right now."

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