

# Airport runway lights to be upgraded

*Project to begin Tuesday  
and expected to last 30 days*

**BY EMILY ROTH**

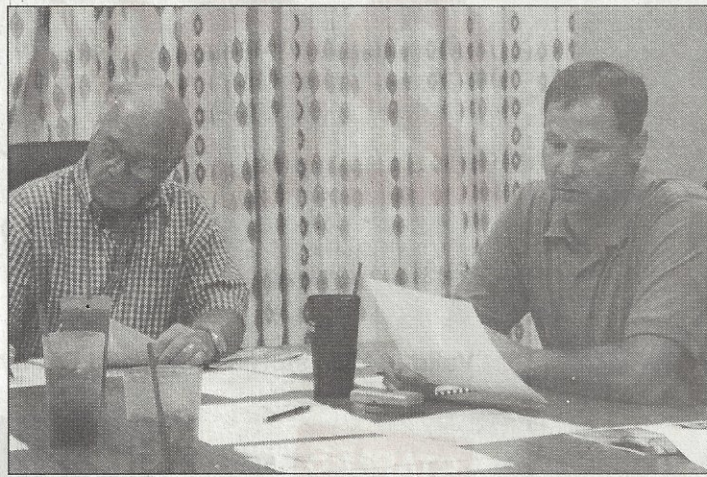
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport has entered into a MALSR (Medium Intensity Approach Lighting System With Runway Alignment Indicator Lights) revitalization project, as explained by Airport Director Chris Collins during Tuesday night's meeting of the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Authority full board.

According to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration), the MALSR is a medium approach intensity lighting system (ALS) installed in airport runway approach zones along the extended centerline of the runway. The MALSR provides visual information to pilots on runway alignment, height perception, roll guidance, and horizontal references for precision approaches.

Collins stated, "The FAA tech ops have discovered that the light lane basically off the end of Runway 2-3 leading out to the creek, which is the lead-in lights, the final portion of lead-in lights when pilots are shooting precision approaches into Runway 2-3 ... towers have deteriorated so much. They're as old as I am. They need to be upgraded. These plans have been on the desk since probably February, and it's been known all year long that we're going to do this project, probably in the fall or spring of '16. Probably about the 28th of June or so I get a call from a contractor saying they're going to be onsite on [July 13]."

The project is set to begin on Tuesday. During the duration of the project, the airport runway



Sentinel Photo/EMILY ROTH

**REVIEWING LETTERS —** Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Director Chris Collins, RIGHT, looks over written correspondence during Tuesday night's Airport Authority full board meeting. Leading the meeting with Chairman Mike Ancona, Collins informed the board of an impending runway lighting project.

## Airport:

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will be closed during the day, opening again in the evenings.

"This project's going to require shutting the runway down," said Collins. "Runway 5-2-3 will be shut down Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. everyday. We'll just go ahead and leave it closed during the night because of the move in of all ... the barricades and reopen at 5:30 p.m. Friday and be open all weekend long. Then

they'll turn the instrument system on, and the lights back on. It'll probably take at least a month to finish this project. Luckily I've got latitude from the contractor and resident engineer to do spot openings whenever we get cargo planes and fast movers that need the big long runway. So I'm happy with that, but it is going to task us for about 30 days. We'll be a much better facility once it's done."

Collins informed the board that previous MALSR operated on 1960s technology.

The board did not vote on the project, as it is one facilitated by the FAA. **7-16-15**  
[eroth@morningsentinel.com](mailto:eroth@morningsentinel.com)

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