

# Airport Authority finds new funding source for project

## *Bean Capital Development Center in Wayne City will finance Innovation Park*

**BY RICK HAYES**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Financing for the proposed Innovation Park project on the southwest quadrant of Mt. Vernon Airport Authority has cleared a major hurdle.

Commissioners tabled the issue at their September meeting after learning that Peoples National Bank would give the Authority a 10-year loan at a fixed rate, but then a balloon payment of approximately \$242,000 would be required to pay off the remainder of the

loan.

Peoples National Bank basically made the same offer since that meeting.

In the last 30 days, Airport Manager Chris Collins has been working with another financial institution — Bean Capital Development Center in Wayne City — to provide a loan that would allow the Authority to make an approximate \$2,000 per month payment.

Collins told commissioners on Tuesday night the Wayne City bank would provide a 25-year loan at 3.5 percent. The \$425,000 principal would result in a monthly payment of \$2,127 per month.

"There was a lot of discussion on the issue," Collins said Wednesday. "Any amount north of \$2,000 doesn't excite us, but I showed the 10-year treasury rate to the com-

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## **Airport:**

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missioners which shows that we have the lowest interest rates available since 1946."

Authority members directed Collins to enter into the agreement with Bean Capital, and Collins said the Authority would probably call a special meeting when all of the documentation has been completed and ready to sign.

The total project cost of the hangar in Innovation Park is \$360,000. The Authority in September approved an engineering agreement with Hanson Professional Services for design of the ramp portion of the project. That \$585,000 project will be financed through state and federal

funds, with the local share amounting to approximately \$29,250.

The airport's property and equipment insurance expired on Oct. 4 and commissioners renewed a one-year contract with Columbia Insurance through local agent Mike Beard at The Insurance Store.

Commissioners learned the premiums for the insurance had increased 31.7 percent from a year ago — jumping from \$21,000 to \$28,000. As a result, the Authority instructed Collins to seek three-year premium proposals, which will be reviewed at the Airport Authority's December meeting.

Columbia and The Insurance Store was the only company that submitted a bid when the Authority sought bids for renewal.

### **IN OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Collins reported that bid

## **INNOVATION PARK PROJECT**

**Hangar construction:**  
\$360,000

**Ramp Construction:** \$585,000

Hangar construction financing through Bean Capital Development Center in Wayne City; the ramp construction project will be financed through state and federal funds

specifications for narrow band radios has been completed. The airport will be purchasing 12 radios with a 50 percent local match required. The total project cost is estimated to be about \$8,000. Collins said he hopes the bids will be returned in time for commissioners to review them at its Nov. 13 meeting.

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16-11-12