

# Board discusses terminal fixes

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MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon-Outland Airport Authority commissioners met with architects Wednesday to discuss preliminary options to make Koziara Terminal more energy efficient.

The purpose of the meeting, organizers say, was to “define the scope” and determine what particulars need to be put into place before plans can be put into motion.

Constructed in 1974, the terminal was designed to be a modern airline facility that would accommodate a number of airline passengers, airport administration personnel and restaurant customers.

But the deregulation of the scheduled airlines in the 1970s and the loss of Essential Air Service in 1999 led to the discontinuance of a large amount of passengers connecting into the system through the Mt. Vernon Airport.

Most of the building is currently heated and cooled through the original multi-zone handlers with the addition supplied by two space air heat pumps.

With large increases in both energy and electric prices, commissioners say the time is now to look into securing the terminal.

“Back then, we didn’t think about losing a little bit of heat but now it’s critical,” Authority Chairman Mike Ancona said.

Boyd Poirier, professional engineer with Poirier Associates, is working with Round Table Designs for the preliminary measures. Poirier presented a number of scenarios for the commissioners to mull over, including installing a geothermal unit.

Airport manager Chris Collins said work should begin this spring. Once the design is completed, the airport will then accept bids for the work.

Collins added the renovation is to be paid for through a bond issue approved in 2004.

“This has been something that has been on the minds of everyone once they came onto the board,” he said.

An evaluation summary should be available in the next few weeks.