

# Airport purchases de-icing equipment

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MT. VERNON — Airport commissioners approved de-icing equipment and materials during their monthly meeting Tuesday.

Manager Chris Collins convinced commissioners to purchase the equipment, at an estimated cost of \$1,200, for a Cryotech E36 system.

Collins explained the airport does not run into situations frequently when de-icing the runway is needed — he said it's happened about twice in 10 years — but at the same time, he does not want to miss an economic opportunity.

The airport does receive notifications from time to time from corporations who have to make "just in time" deliveries. In those instances, the airport stands ready to accommodate those requests.

After concerns were raised about liability, Collins assured commissioners

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that he conducts brake assessments before the runways are cleared for traffic. In all cases, the carrier remains responsible for take-offs and/or landings, it was noted.

The de-icing materials will cost about \$2,200 per tote, and Collins estimated it would take at least two totes to spray 50 feet down the center of the runway. Collins also reported the materials have a good shelf life so if they are not used immediately, they can be stored for safekeeping.

Commissioners took no action on a request for a new "floating" door at the SRT Aviation hangar.

After consulting with the manufacturer and local architect Brian Edmison, Collins said with some engineering changes and the construction of at least two steel beams, the project could be completed for around \$40,000. The estimated costs includes the door, engineering fees and

the general contract work.

Collins said the work could be done in about three working days.

Concerned about coming into winter weather, commissioners questioned the timing of the project. It was recommended Collins meet with officials from SRT to discuss whether to proceed with the project immediately or wait until the spring.

Also, officials did not finalize where the funds for the project will come from, although Collins said funding is available either through the airport's Capital Projects Fund or through Flight-Line.

Kevin and Jennifer Witzel were in attendance to discuss the recently-concluded Balloons Over Mt. Vernon event. Jennifer Witzel said although the weather was "raunchy" the event could still be deemed a success.

She indicated approximately \$2,000 was raised for United Way of South Central Illinois.

The Witzels were given permission to proceed with plans for another event in October 2015, although it will not be held on the same weekend as the annual Fall Fest celebration.

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