

Airport plans expansion project

Nov. 14, 2013

Authority hears proposal for new Avionics Lab

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MT. VERNON — A proposal to build a new Avionics Lab was presented to the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority at its monthly meeting Tuesday.

The proposal was presented by Manager Chris Collins and Rich Carney, president of SRT Aviation.

The lab expansion will be used by Jimmy Case, avionics manager at SRT Aviation. A few options were discussed, such as utilizing space that is already inside the SRT structure and building outside. Collins offered the option of using a portable building or a coach house. The Board will further discuss the details on this project at a later

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date.

Mike Ancona, chairman of the Authority, voiced his concern on getting the front doors of the airport fixed. Ancona and the board agreed that having the doors fixed is a project that needs to be further addressed.

"This airport has been noted for putting its best foot forward. We represent the front door to our community," Ancona said.

Change orders for Innovation Park were

presented by Collins, and received board approval.

A change order for Mid Eastern Plumbing of \$7,800 to finish the plumbing was approved. A change order for KT Electric of \$7,842 was approved to finish the electrical wiring.

"I am very happy and very pleased with the progress," Collins said.

The Authority will move forward with seeking additional bids for interior work for the office space.

In other business, the farming contract of Kent Donoho was approved by the board for \$38,000. It was reported by Collins that five bids were received compared to just three last year.

"Best year ever for

farming bids," Collins said.

Paul Lynch, vice president of the Small Business Advisory Council, and Oliva Majerchin, executive director of the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce, sought approval to host the 2014 Home Show at the airport.

Lynch and Majerchin wanted to utilize the community hanger along with the hanger to the north of the community hanger for the show. The Authority approved the request.

Also, the airport's rental house on Shelia Road needs 13 new windows replaced to save the renter's on high utilities. Collins discussed each bid on

the window replacements and gave the board two bids. The Board approved a bid of \$3,500 from Superior Windows.

Rob Wielt, the senior energy consultant of Affordable Gas and Electric, proposed offering a natural gas service agreement. After hearing the details, the board decided to take more time to look into this proposal.

Eddie Lee was appointed by the board as the Airport Authority's secretary. Lee was appointed to serve on the board during last month's meeting, replacing Dr. David Asbery, who resigned due to serving on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees.