

Hertz Rent-a-Car to return

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MT. VERNON — Hertz Rent-a-Car is slated to return to Mt. Vernon Airport.

The company plans to move into a section of suite "A" of the Koziara Terminal by the end of the year, Airport Manager Chris Collins told the Board of Commissioners Tuesday.

"They set their sights on Mt. Vernon as a possible expansion and called me," he said. "They have a lot of gold card customers in the area they want to serve better."

Collins said he sent Hertz a tentative contract almost identical to the company's previous deal with the airport through January 2000, and he expects

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it to be approved either as-is or very similar. The board authorized Collins to look over Hertz's response with a lawyer and approve it.

Collins said the business requested to lease a small part of the "A" suite next to the main door of the terminal to set up a desk.

"Visibility is very important for them," he said.

The St. Louis-based company is also expected to keep several cars on site, probably more than the 10 it housed in Mt. Vernon during

its last stay.

Collins said an agreement with Hertz would bring the airport closer to filling all its vacant offices, although Koziara's "B" suite, former home of the American Red Cross, remains empty.

"We'd like to have them all full," Collins said.

In other business, the board:

■ heard an update from Collins on the new 10-foot fence being constructed around the airport property. He said most of the metal posts have been set in concrete and the laying of chain-link, or "stringing the fabric," will begin next week. He added that he ex-

pects the project to finish ahead of its January deadline;

■ approved the purchase of a new \$400 air compressor to travel between the facility's terminals. Collins thanked Chris Urba, a friend and user of the airport, for offering the item below its \$489 market price;

■ authorized Collins to switch the airport's handheld fire protection needs from Campbell Fire and Safety to Bluford-based Ag-

gressive Fire Protection. Collins said, based on 2010 numbers, the airport could save \$150 per year from the switch;

■ authorized Collins to research the possibility of hiring part-time help at the airport given the facility's burgeoning fuel sales business. Collins said the airport's current office staff has been overwhelmed by the accounting involved and will look into relieving that burden in the near future.

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