

# Mt. Vernon Airport Board gives contract to local firm

*Commissioners also approve 'over hauling' website*

**BY RICK HAYES**

MT. VERNON MANAGING EDITOR

**MT. VERNON** — In noting “we’re all for supporting the home team,” the Mt. Vernon Airport Board entered into an agreement with a local company Tuesday night to maintain its auxiliary generators.

Airport Manager Chris Collins, who made the home team comment, told the board the ultimate decision was up to the board, but he recommended the maintenance agreement be approved with IPT Power Systems, based in Mt. Ver-

non. The agreement is for \$1,350. A Fenton, Mo., company, Luby Equipment Services, submitted a lower bid of \$1,195, but it included a \$2.40 per mile charge and its hourly rate was \$20 more [\$95] than the bid submitted by IPT.

The airport has two auxiliary generators, one based in the lighting vault — largest — and the other near the fire station. Collins said, “Three times we’ve had emergency failure with the big one, and every time we have to call someone in it has cost us \$2,000 to \$3,000. For quite some time, we need to take a corrective approach.”

In another unanimous motion, the Airport Authority approved appointing Perry Hartman of Nashville, Tenn., to “overhaul” the airport’s website.

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## Contract:

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“It’s time we kick it into the big time,” Collins said, noting the airport’s current website pulled 1,504 hits from the recently-completed Midwest LSA Expo, while the Expo generated 2,224 hits off Google and another 4,000 from the sponsoring organization.

Collins indicated some of the work on the website, including the home page, has been completed by Hartman. He also indicated it’s geared toward digital pilots, who can navigate fuel stops through the use of small personal computers attached to their legs.

“This will put us so far ahead of the competition,” Collins told the board.

Board member Gary Chesney made the motion to approve the expenditure.

“Even though it will cost us \$2,000 to get this thing going, it could pay for itself very quickly,” he said.

### **IN OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Examination of the annu-

al audit was tabled since the Authority’s accountant, David Kiefer, was not in attendance.

- Collins provided an update on the construction of the new hangar, noting the exterior sheeting on the south facing has been completed, all of the steel has been erected and officials are now waiting for the sliding door installation. Work on the ramp, a state contract awarded to Kiefer Brothers Construction in Mount Carmel, is expected to be completed today.

- Collins reported a steel canopy was being erected for the mobile fueler containment pit. He indicated it’s a slow process, because, “It’s like putting up a big, erection set. It has a lot of nuts and bolts, and I believe I’ve touched all of them at least once.”

- Collins also told commissioners the airport is badly in need of a Holly double pumper for a Chevrolet 366 for an aging [1985] jet fuel truck. Collins reported the carburetor is wearing out, and the truck is so difficult to start in winter months he has resorted to leaving instructions for its operators.

*rhayes@morningsentinel.com*