

Airport resurfacing under way

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MT. VERNON — Once work to resurface taxiways C and D at the Mt. Vernon Airport are complete, the airport will be able to boast of a 100 percent pavement condition index, according to Airport Manager Chris Collins.

"It's very rare for any airport to reach 100 percent," Collins told members of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Tuesday night. "Next year's tip sheet for pilots will be completely blue, showing all our runways are in top condition."

Work on resurfacing the two remaining taxiways is at the halfway point on completion, Collins reported, and said the only delays at this time are due to weather conditions.

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Collins

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"We were going pretty good until Monday morning when the temperatures got down and were frosty and cold," Collins said. "It has to be 45 degrees Fahrenheit for

them to pave."

Airport commissioners also received word that an Federal Aviation Administration designated and certified pilot examiner, Leland Widick, will be locating at the airport, and opening an aviation consulting office at SRT Aviation. Collins explained that any student who has passed ground school

training, completed flight instruction still has to take a written, oral and practical exam given by a FAA certified examiner before they can receive their pilot license. Also, whenever any pilot changes his rating — such as completing training for instrument flight — an FAA examiner has to conduct the test and

certify the results.

Collins said there has been a real need for an FAA examiner, as the last one for the area — located in Centralia — retired two years ago. Collins said other airport officials whom he spoke with during a recent FAA Conference reported they had been sending students to Louisville, Ky.,

to receive their licenses.

"They said they would be glad to see an examiner here and not so far away or in a metropolitan area," Collins said.

During Tuesday's meeting, the airport board also approved designating Hanson Professional Engineers as the airport engineer for the next

five years. An engineer firm must be designated for each airport throughout the state every five years, and after sending out requests for proposals, Collins said two proposals were received, including one from Hanson, which has served as engineers for the airport for the previous five years.