

AIRPORT BOARD

Sticking with same insurance

By RORYE O'CONNOR

rorye.oconnor@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Board of Commissioners voted Tuesday to stick with its health insurance through Blue Cross/Blue Shield despite a 24-percent increase in rates.

Airport manager Chris Collins said the airport's employees will also be applying to Health Alliance to see if they can get the lower rate that was suggested at \$1,840 a month, but not guaranteed before applications are submitted.

"That (BCBS) 24 percent increase will add an additional \$6,876 annually for the airport's five employees," Collins said.

The airport's current monthly premium is \$1,852 for its five employees,

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but will increase to \$2,425 a month with the rate hike.

The Health Alliance plan would be similar, but would have a total of \$3,500 out-of-pocket expenses, compared to the BCBS total of \$2,000 currently, Collins said, which lessens the appeal of the plan somewhat.

A proposal from Global Energy Solutions may salve the sting of insurance increases if adopted, however, Collins said.

Jim Mueller and Wayne Hicks from the consulting company came before the Board of Commissioners to share the possibility of possible energy savings by

shopping on the open market.

"They came out last week and got copies of our energy bills, and tried to get quotes from all the suppliers," Collins said.

The airport is currently paying \$.67 per kilowatt hour through Ameren IP, but Global Energy Solutions claims if the airport buys energy from Ameren Energy Marketing, they can receive a rate of \$.52 a kilowatt hour and save as much as \$5,000 a year.

Collins said the item was tabled until next month, so two members of the board of commissioners who are former electric company employees can investigate further.

The airport's new Web site, designed by Perry Hart-

mann, a Nashville, Tenn.-based aviation marketing professional, is set to go live today, Collins said.

"We're really proud of it," he said. "Hopefully it will do everything we intend it to do."

The total cost of the Web site upgrade was \$2,850, with \$50 for each page upgraded. The airport will also be paying \$350 a year for the domain space, Collins said.

He said his favorite part of the Web site is the pages for the Hall of Honor, the airport's veterans museum. He said there's a list of honorees and a virtual hall of honor, where each framed tribute in the hall of honor appears for three to four seconds.

"It's really powerful," he said.

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