

Airport looks into Mobile Fueler Project

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MT. VERNON — After the first year of a five-year plan to make major developments at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport has come to a close, airport officials are continuing to look at the next step for "Momentum 2014."

At the monthly Board of Commissioners meeting held at the airport on Tuesday, the board approved Airport Director Chris Collins to do further research on building a containment center for the mobile refuelers at the airport.

According to Collins, the EPA has placed Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure rules for the two mobile refuelers at the airport.

"The EPA has a mandate that mobile fueler trucks should be parked in a containment area in the case that they leak," he said.

Collins said currently, the trucks have to be monitored for leakage, however, as a part of the "Momentum 2014" plan, the board is looking at establishing a containment area off of the airport ramp north-east of the hangars on the airport grounds.

"They need to be parked with some coverage over them. Those trucks are our lifeblood at the airport. If we can't sell fuel, there's no income," Collins said.

Collins said the main step that needs to be taken before looking at construction is to have an airspace evaluation of the containment

area, which would make them in compliance with the EPA.

"Once the airspace approval is back, we would be able to build there. The funds for it have already been earmarked in the Momentum 2014 plan," he added.

While the carport the board looked at was estimated by Collins to cost about \$8,000, he said they have \$25,000 earmarked in bond issue for the project. The board also discussed having a contracting company assist in the building of the unit.

"This will be a chance to look at the construction side of things before we do a big project with the hangar," Collins said.

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Board Chairman Mike Ancona said he and Collins went to Springfield in December to discuss the proposed hangar project, which the board has been looking at constructing over the past year, with members of the aeronautics division.

"In our Momentum 2014 bond funds, we only have so much for the project... we're trying to see if we can get some help from the state," Collins said.

ALSO AT Tuesday's meeting:

- The board heard a presentation from Mike Beard of

The Insurance Store and compared the rates of two insurance agencies in the areas of workers compensation, general liability, and public official liability. No action was taken;

- The board approved to purchase chemicals for the air rescue fire fighting truck;

- The board discussed the purchase of two new check valves for the lake lift station;

- The board discussed the purchase of an aircraft de-icing machine;

- The board was informed there was a 34.2 percent savings in fuel costs in 2009 as a result of the HVAC project completed last winter;

- Collins said the airport saw an increase in aircraft operation in 2009 in comparison to recent years.

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