

Airport hit with \$600 per month increase in AmerenIP energy rates

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MT. VERNON — Rate increases through AmerenIP will cost the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport approximately \$608 more dollars per month in energy expenses.

Chris Collins, airport manager, prepared a spreadsheet outlining the increases for members of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority, who met in regular session Tuesday night.

Collins said he used numbers from the December statement in comparison with the rates as listed in the statement for January to arrive at his estimate.

The billing cycle included five days at the rate prior to the implementa-

tion of the increase and listed a raise of \$524 for the month of January.

Collins explained he added 16 percent to that figure to account for the five days billed at the old rate to reach the final number of a \$608.74 increase per month.

The Airport Authority had previously estimated the increase would come in at \$600 and has budgeted



Chris Collins

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accordingly.

Discussions with the on-demand air travel service, Point2Point, remain ongoing and the airport has partnered with Jefferson County Development Corporation to gather and compile data that will be used in a feasibility study.

Chairman Alan Hale said the project is moving forward and expects representative from Point2Point to visit the airport in March to meet with potential customers.

"This thing is on track. It looks good and I just couldn't be happier with it," Hale said.

An energy audit of the terminal is

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underway with some data already available for study, Collins said.

The board has discussed an energy audit of the building in the past and recently reached out to Southern Illinois University to gauge interest in an engineering student performing the audit as an independent study.

Collins, a former engineering student, said he contacted the school and the audit began last week.

Hale explained the building was built at a time when energy efficiency was not a priority

and stressed the importance of having data to lead the airport board in a direction of energy savings.

The board voted to approve renewing its general liability insurance with an increased deductible from \$1,000 to \$5,000 at a savings in its premium of \$103.

The deductible would only apply in specific situation of liability within two of the airport hangars, Collins said prior to recommending the higher deductible.

Collins further stated the airport would first have to be proved liable before the deductible would be paid and said he could find no evidence of past claims.

Maintenance crews will tackle a sewer leak next to

Runway 5 over the weekend.

Collins said the leak was recently discovered and believes the problem can be traced to a pipe running under the runway and connecting the airport lift station to the city sewer.

Hale said he would like to contact city engineers to research the possibility that growth in the area of the city sewer may be putting strain on the system and impeding the airport's sewer discharge.

The airport has shown a 51 percent increase in activity in January over the last year, according to information provided by Collins.

"It's going to be a great year if January is any indication," Collins said.

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