

Increased business reported by airport

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MT. VERNON — Last year's business at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport surpassed the 2006 numbers by approximately 30 percent, according to airport manager Chris Collins.

Collins informed the Airport Authority board of the increase Tuesday night during a rescheduled monthly meeting.

He attributed the growth to

multiple factors and efforts under the airport's umbrella.

"We have one of the best [flight-based operations, SRT Aviation]," Collins said. "[Apple Dumplin' Grandma's Way] is attracting a lot of flyers and we've also included a cargo courier system."

Collins said he hopes to see continued success in the years to come.

"I just think people want to come and see what we're all about," he said.

In other airport news:

■ The board approved the advertisement for bids regarding the pilot control lighting system. Bids are due March 7, with the work to begin this spring.

In October, the 15-year-old system was struck by a lightning bolt.

Rather than replace the old system, which, Collins said, is too advanced for the airport, a simpler system would allow local electricians to perform

maintenance.

■ An engineering agreement with Hanson Engineering was approved Tuesday night for this summer's capital improvement projects. The multifaceted contract approved the renovation of taxiways C and D at the airport as well as the electrical alternates

■ Collins recognized Kenny Hayes for donating 12 truckloads of dirt for airport use.

■ ProjectResource IT LC will lease space at the airport terminal. The information technology business contracts work with computers and plans to use aviation to generate business in a five-state region. Collins said Mt. Vernon was the perfect location for the owners to attract necessary business.

ProjectResource IT will launch in May. Its Web site will be first published on March 1.

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