

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held March 14th, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Present: Michael Ancona	Chairman
Eddie Lee	Vice Chairman
Joe Bob Pierce	Secretary
Gary Chesney	Treasurer
Ryan Wellmaker	Commissioner

Staff: Chris Collins  
Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Josh Jones, Travis Morse, Steve Willis, Nick Schubert, Don Lewis & Ruth Anne Strawn.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Hearing none, Chairman Ancona moved forward with the meeting.

**REPORTS**

**Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the February 14th, Meeting for approval. There being no changes to the minutes, motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

**Treasurers' Reports**

There being no concerns with the Treasurer's Reports, motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor of the motion.

**Bills for Approval**

There being no questions or concerns with the Bills for Approval, motion was made and seconded to approve the bills as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There being none, Chairman Ancona moved forward with the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NAVAIDS**

Mr. Collins presented a letter from the FAA alerting the airport and the flying public of the agency's proposed decommissioning of the Mt. Vernon VOR (Vertical Omni Range) navigation system. VOR's are 1960's era ground based navigation aids. Mr. Collins stated many VOR's across the Midwest are on the FAA's decommissioning list for 2020. This effort is related to the continued implementation of the FAA's NextGen Initiative – the doing away with costly ground based navigation hardware in favor of satellite based systems. Coupled with the VOR is the AWOS (Automated Weather Observation

System) broadcast and an RCO (Remote Communications Outlet) frequency. There is a major difficulty with this proposed action. Mr. Collins explained that if the airport loses this upcoming battle, the only way to navigate into and out of KMVN during Instrument Flight Rule weather will be via GPS. Most local aircraft do not have IFR Certified GPS equipment on board to use the GPS navigation systems legally. So what about the AWOS and RCO Mr. Collins asked? Plans are in the works through FAA Technical Operations to move the AWOS broadcast to an antenna above the terminal via a new discrete frequency. Mr. Collins has been a proponent of this idea for years. As for the RCO, Mr. Collins was quick to mention this is not the method of reaching air traffic control on the ground but a way to contact Flight Service by transmitting over one frequency and listening for St. Louis Radio to return the call over the AWOS (VOR) frequency. Discussion ensued about the FAA, NextGEN, Airgo, Leland Widick, and the impacts of not having these amenities. Airgo Incorporated and Leland Widick must have VOR capabilities. Mr. Collins noted an effort is underway to fight the decommissioning. Several affected parties are drafting letters to the FAA. All letters must be submitted by Monday, April 3, 2017. Mr. Collins noted that his letter will ask the FAA to look at the VOR's on a case by case basis. Economic Impact and operational statistics must be considered, otherwise airport tenants could relocate to airports that retain their NAVAIDS.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Boy Scouts of America Events**

Mr. Nick Schubert, Boy Scouts of America Area Coordinator was introduced by Mr. Collins. Mr. Schubert explained how he arrived at the airport. He visited to find a new home for a Day Camp and left with an idea to start an Explorer Post. The soon to be created Jefferson County Aviation Explorer Post will sign up interested students at an Open House scheduled for this Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Koziara Terminal Lobby. Mr. Collins noted some great people are lining up to help teach area kids about aviation careers. Once established, the Jefferson County Aviation Explorer Post will be the only Aviation Explorer Post in the 50 county area – including St. Louis! The local post is open to youth ages 14 – 20 and will meet monthly. Mr. Willis mentioned several outing destinations, integration in the Rend Lake RC Club, and possibly a post project. Mr. Schubert also discussed the BSA Day Camp scheduled for June. The Day Camp is a week-long event for Cub Scouts that teaches the kids basic scouting tasks. There will be time each afternoon for an aviation themed experience. The Day Camp will draw scouts from the region and will run daily from 8:00 or 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

### **Engineering Agreement**

Mr. Collins presented an Engineering Agreement between the MVAA and Hanson Professional Services. The Agreement covers Hanson's involvement with the upcoming Runway 05/23 Maintenance and Marking Project scheduled for this Summer. Cracks, especially in the paving lane joints, will be routed and filled. A complete repainting will occur after the maintenance work is done. Mr. Collins explained this is a State/Federal Project with the estimated total cost of \$330,000. The local share is \$16,500. Motion

was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the Engineering Agreement as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

### **Events**

Mr. Collins briefed the Commissioners on the Vietnam Veterans Run for the Wall. The Run for the Wall, a parade of nearly 500 Vietnam era Veterans, their motorcycles, and support vehicles, will make a lunch stop at the airport this year on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 12:15 p.m. The visitors will stretch their legs, eat lunch, and stroll through the Hall of Honor before departing at approximately 1:45 p.m. The event is being coordinated through the City Tourism Department. Mr. Collins stated he is honored the event chose the airport as its Mt. Vernon stop.

Mr. Collins explained the Balloons Over Mt. Vernon Committee met last Monday morning. With the Run to the Wall coming to the airport in late May, a decision was made to move the balloon event to the third weekend in May, 2018. The committee felt May could provide better flying weather. With May, 2017 too close to make things happen this year, Balloons Over Mt. Vernon will take 18 months off to fine tune. As for the airport's long standing aviation event over the third weekend in October, look for a Young Eagle Rally/United Way Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 21, 2017.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

With no Executive Session items, no Other Business, and no further items for discussion on the Agenda, motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

