

# Airport gearing up for new hangar

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MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is expected to break ground on a new hangar this summer.

"We'd like to get this done as soon as we can," Airport Manager Chris Collins said. "May would be nice, but it will put a tremendous amount of pressure on the architect/engineer we choose."

Realistically, Collins said a June date is expected.

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**MT. VERNON OUTLAND AIRPORT MANAGER CHRIS COLLINS**

The Airport Board has approved moving forward with the project, part of the Momentum 2010 Capital Plan for the facility. The plans call for a 100-foot by 100-foot hangar building, to be

constructed south of the existing south hangar. However, Collins said the board is hoping to be able to build a 110-foot by 110-foot

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## HANGAR

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building at about the same cost, which would allow larger aircraft to be placed in the hangar.

"When you look at long-term usage, the largest aircraft we expect is the CRJ700, the Embraer145 and the Gulfstream G550," Collins explained. "All of them are larger aircraft that would fit in the larger hangar. The new trend for air carriers is to use the jets that seat up to 50 passengers, and if we ever want to attract an air carrier, we

need to be prepared."

Last month the Airport Board approved Lipps Construction for the project, and executed the contract calling for the company to be paid 2.5 percent of the total project cost during its regular meeting last night. In addition, negotiations will begin with an architect for the project, with Brian Edmison and Associates submitted a proposal on Tuesday.

The airport has had a waiting list for hangar rental for years, and can accommodate about 49 aircraft. Collins said the number of aircraft that can utilize the new hangar will

depend upon the size of the aircraft.

"We can get one big or as many as 10 of the smaller aircraft in a hangar that size," Collins explained. "The best part about the building is it will be a multi-purpose building that can serve as storage for small or large aircraft. That means that if someone is flying through and has to land due to thunderstorms, they could put down here and keep their aircraft inside.

"It gives us a lot of options. It also will help when we have national conventions. ... Inside storage is a huge benefit." 4/1+10