

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Held April 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM

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

Absent: None

Staff: Chris Collins
Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Emily Roth, Phil Hamerski, Steve Willis, Jennifer Witzel, & Kevin Witzel.

PUBLIC INPUT

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

REPORTS

Minutes

Minutes were presented for the March 10, 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

Mr. Collins presented invitations to the 2015 Illinois Aviation Conference. The conference will be on Thursday, May 14th in Rockford.

OLD BUSINESS

Energy Contract

Mr. Collins explained bids for the contract were submitted on Tuesday, March 31st. The intent was to open, research, and enter into a contract prior to the end of March. Nordic energy submitted the low bid at \$0.0502 cents per Kw/hr. Direct Energy's bid was

\$0.0537 cents per Kw/hr. Affordable Gas & Electric only submitted 24 and 32 month rates. Based on the all-inclusive rate and nearly 500,000 Kw/hr annual consumption, Nordic will save the airport at least \$1500 per year. Nordic representative David Jarman of Granite City met with Commissioner Chesney and Mr. Collins regarding the contract. Mr. Jarman explained the difference between contracting on an all-inclusive rate or an energy-only rate. By selecting energy-only, Mr. Jarman has saved his customers hundreds of dollars per year as energy-only includes Ameren's pass-through costs as is. According to Mr. Jarman, when all-inclusive rates are selected, Ameren's pass through charges are estimated by the 3rd party supplier (the customer may actually paying for energy it did not use). Commissioner Chesney and I signed a contract with Nordic for an energy only rate of \$0.0383 cents per Kw/Hr. David Jarman estimates the airport will save another \$800 annually (in addition to the \$1500)! Chairman Ancona asked for a motion to approve an annual contract with Nordic Energy. Motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Pierce. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Taxiway "B" & "E" Revitalization

Mr. Collins stated the tentative start date of the project is Monday, April 20th. The project is expected to last seven to ten days. The start date may be pushed back due to contractor/material requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

Balloons Over MVN

Mr. Collins explained that for the first two years, this event was primarily held outside the aircraft movement areas (outside the fence). Insurance was provided through the EAA event insurance. With many more balloons and the need to be on the movement area this year, the event has moved to the next level. A committee consisting of Mr. Collins, Jennifer Witzel, & Kevin Witzel, were going to complete the necessary FAA Waivers, insurance, and other technical aspects in house. These details are handled at the big balloon events by a professional Balloonmeister. Working independently, Mr. Collins noted that he has been talking with the Springfield Flight Standards District Office regarding the event. Kevin & Jennifer have been working with other balloon industry people. All sides seem to point the committee in the direction of hiring a professional Balloonmeister for the 3rd Annual Balloons Over Mt. Vernon. Mr. Collins went on to state that a Balloonmeister is absolutely essential after the tragic crash of a balloon last fall in West Virginia. That event was the same scale as Balloons Over Mt. Vernon and was handled by local people. Everyone affiliated with the event is now involved in a lawsuit. Mr. Collins noted a professional Balloonmeister protects all entities. A contract with Balloonmeister Scott McClinton of SkyCab Balloon Promotions was presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Collins stated that the committee will be searching for sponsorship funds to cover the \$2100 Balloonmeister expense. Because the Balloonmeister needs to get to work on the FAA Manual and other requirements, Mr. Collins would like to get him under contract. Mr. Collins asked the Commissioners if the airport could cover this expense with the hope of re-imburement after sponsorship is secured. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the \$2100 contract with Skycab Balloon Promotions

with the understanding the airport would be re-imbursed if sponsorship could be secured. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Innovation Park

Mr. Collins noted the airport may have a potential tenant desiring to construct a new hangar in Innovation Park. A holding company that owns one turboprop aircraft and manages another is currently leasing space inside A-1100. Three corporate flight departments now share that structure. In the last week, the holding company controlling two of the aircraft has expressed interest in building its own hangar and the entity is intrigued about the Innovation Park Project. At the present time, the holding company is interested in constructing an identical structure as Hangar #1 (80'x80' with attached 25'x50') office. Their future plans are to upgrade to a Beechcraft Super King Air 350 within two years. Mr. Collins provided a tentative roadmap on what would need to happen to achieve Innovation Park Hangar #2. First, the airport would have to swap State/Federal projects for 2016. The airport would trade the "T" Hangar Access Taxiway for Innovation Park Ramp #2. Mr. Collins mentioned that he has talked to Rob Waller of Hanson and Terry Schaddell of IDOT and both agree IDOT and the FAA would welcome this swap (they prefer corporate developments over "T" hangars). The dollar amounts are very similar so not much worries there. The only requirements on the airport's end is an FAA 7460 Airspace Study and an Environmental Assessment Categorical Exclusion (CATEX). Mr. Collins noted he submitted for the Airspace Study on Friday and will start the CATEX process on Monday. Both the CATEX and Airspace Study take approximately 90 days to come to fruition. If everyone agrees to proceed, the holding company could start construction in July! Of course there is lots of negotiation ahead (ground lease rate, covenants in the agreement, defined usage, etc.). The airport would also have to construct a temporary taxiway from the Evans ramp to the holding company's hangar. Mr. Collins stated "the big question for us is do we want to swap projects"? The Momentum 2022 Capital Development Plan is still six months away and is not impacted since the holding company is building the hangar. He noted removing the "T" Hangar Project will free up funds for other projects. Mr. Collins mentioned the long awaited "T" Hangar, and noted currently there are only two interested parties on the waiting list. He stated there are at least three hangars that have aircraft that do not fly. Mr. Collins noted that better management of the 32 hangars (ensuring only flyable aircraft are stored) would have to be implemented and there is still plenty of space in the Community Hangar. Discussion ensued about the swapping of projects and the impacts to future small aircraft owners. The Commissioners expressed their desires to serve everyone but bills are paid faster by the corporate aircraft owners/operators. Mr. Collins noted that no decisions must be made immediately but if the holding company remains interested, a decision to swap projects will have to be made in the next few months. He expressed his excitement in having three turboprop operators at the airport furthering the businesses of their owners, while providing more operations, more fuel sales, and more maintenance for the airport. Everyone wins!

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no items to discuss under Other Business, Chairman Ancona moved forward with the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Chesney to approve a 5% annual increase for Maintenance Assistant Ron Mosier (\$1900) and Maintenance Assistant Larry Hughes (\$1040). Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

April 14, 2015

Mr. Collins noted that it was past time for Maintenance Superintendent Ron Mosier and Maintenance Assistant Larry Hughes to receive raises. Ron Mosier's last increase was in 2008. Larry Hughes last increase was in 2011. Mr. Collins stated both do exceptional work and is as dedicated as they can be. Discussion ensued with all Commissioners praising both men. Mr. Collins presented figures representing 3.5% and 5% increases for both employees. The other Commissioners agreed with Commissioner Chesney when he stated "whatever we decide to give them, it is not enough". The Commissioners agreed to approve 5% increases for Ron Mosier and Larry Hughes upon returning to open session.