

# Airport Authority hears fuel sales increase 66 percent this past year

*State of the Airport report given during monthly meeting*

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MT. VERNON — Mt. Vernon Outland Airport saw a 66 percent increase in fuel sales this past year, according to the State of the Airport 2011-2012 report, given at Tuesday's Airport Authority monthly meeting.

Chairman Greg Martin read the report, submitted by Airport Manager Chris Collins. In addition to the fuel increase — which Collins attributed to the new hangar and the “ability to store planes,” the airport also saw a 9 percent

increase in aircraft operations this past year.

Southern Illinois' only FAA certified repair station, SRT Aviation, conducted avionics testing on over 50 aircraft in addition their airframe and powerplant maintenance work, the report stated. The Southern Illinois Light Sport Training Academy [SILLSA] produced several new Light Sport Pilots — one coming from as far away as California. SILLSA opened a Jabiru Engine Facility and has rebuilt several engines. It is expanding its operations this next year to rebuild Rotax engines, it was reported.

The airport also welcomed two new members: Hertz and Kash Helicopter Services. Between the two new entities, four new jobs were created.

The board re-elected Martin to

serve as chairman, Gary Chesney as treasurer and Galen Monk was elected secretary, replacing the late Paul Dickerson.

In other action, the Airport Authority gave Collins permission to advertise for a construction manager for the southwest quadrant project, which will include a new hangar and taxiway.

Collins recommended the project be given a name, and he proposed calling it Innovation Park, which was met with approval from the board.

Collins also told the board that he had received a letter from Hanson Professional Services, with the board approving a participation agreement to start the project. Project estimates were placed

Please see **Sales**, Page 3A

5/9/11

## Sales:

*Continued From Page 1A*

at \$581,000 with the airport's share just shy of \$30,000.

The project is reportedly on IDOT's Division of Aeronautics' project list for 2013, although Collins said he has not received the official program letter from state officials.

“We want to be in that January bid letting,” Collins told the board, with construction beginning next

spring.

“This is the beginning of the biggest thing this board has ever approved,” said member Mike Ancona. “We're taking it lightly, but it's a pretty big deal. It'll open up that part of the airport and it could be a great economic opportunity.”

### IN OTHER BUSINESS:

• The annual health insurance premium was renewed with Health Alliance. It covers five full-time employees at a cost of \$1,091 per year. Airport officials noted that is a \$213 increase in premiums from last year.

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