

Lipps Construction will manage hangar project on airport property

Commissioners hear that Innovation Park project has been funded

BY RICK HAYES

MT. VERNON MANAGING EDITOR

MT. VERNON — A project manager for a new hangar in Innovation Park on Mt. Vernon Airport Authority property was approved by commissioners on Tuesday night.

Lipps Construction Co., which also oversaw the recently-completed community hanger south of the terminal, will oversee the \$425,000 project. Additionally, Airport Manager Chris Collins reported the revitalization, ramp and taxiway projects in the Park has received Illinois Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division

approval.

Total cost of that project is estimated to be \$581,000, with the Authority receiving a \$285,000 state apportionment grant to go along with the \$29,000 local match required.

Collins informed the board that the project has received 2013 funding approval from state officials, although the 2013 appropriations won't be released until early fall.

Local officials had wanted to get the project submitted in time for the January bid letting; however, Collins was told that it would be acceptable to hold off on the project until the March bid letting and construction could begin next summer.

Collins indicated that he has a pre-design meeting with IDOT and Hanson Engineering this morning. He also indicated the design for

Please see **Lipps**, Page 3A

Lipps:

Continued From Page 1A

the project has changed slightly. Originally, it was going to be in the southwest quadrant of Airport Authority property. Now it will be moved slightly more to the northeast.

Commissioners approved the tentative budget and appropriations for the 2012-2013 budget year. The budget calls for \$421,000 in revenues and \$419,500 for expenditures for a year-end balance of \$138,683.

Collins noted that he took the "high end" when figuring expenditures, noting the total would probably be closer to \$400,000. It was noted \$8,000 was set aside for "miscellaneous" expenses related to the construction project at Innovation Park.

The budget will be on public display for 30 days and the commissioners will have a special meeting on July 17 — following their regular board meeting on July 10 — to formally approve the budget.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

• Commissioners accepted an offer from Hopper Septic Service for an old truck that failed to get much attention when posted on e-Bay this

past year. The offer of \$750 includes tri-annual pumpings on the airport grounds;

• Collins reported to commissioners that he is negotiating an insurance settlement for a hangar door damaged during an evening storm on May 18. The straight line winds pushed the door over the building, which was "parked full of airplanes," according to Collins. "We're lucky. The damage could've been much worse," he said. The damage was discovered at the hangar that Collins described as the Heroes Community Hangar, since it is located just south of the memorial.

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