

# Tentative 2011-2012 budget approved by Airport Authority

*Manager given permission to seek bids for new seven-passenger van*

**BY RICK HAYES**

MT. VERNON MANAGING EDITOR

MT. VERNON — A tentative budget for 2011-2012 was approved by the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority during its monthly meeting Tuesday night.

Showing cash on hand of nearly \$122,000 as of May 1, the budget approved by the board shows there will be \$123,313 cash on hand by the end of the 2012 fiscal year on April 30.

Airport Manager Chris Collins prepared the budget that indicates there will be \$405,500 in revenues for the year and \$404,000 in expen-

ditures.

The airport receives its largest revenue from the personal property replacement tax, estimated to be \$140,000 during the current fiscal year. Salaries of \$182,000 is the largest expenditure, according to budget figures provided.

"I'd venture to say a lot of airports in the country don't look that good [financially]," said former Board Chairman Mike Ancona, presiding over Tuesday's meeting in place of Chairman Greg Martin, who was absent. "We've very blessed," Ancona added.

Collins also presented the board with an ambitious patio renovation project, which will include a doorway from Wilkey's Restaurant to the patio.

The board approved low bids of \$5,000 to Sheridan Concrete and

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\$2,703 to Fence Town of Chicago for materials for the project, and a budget not to exceed \$11,000 for the entire project, which will include the doorway. Landscaping was not included in the budget estimate provided by Collins, who said the renovation will enhance events hosted by the airport.

The board also approved an expenditure of \$4,300 to Brackett Aviation for a 120,000 pound tow bar which will enable airport personnel to better accommodate larger airplanes. The airport's current tow bar had a 50,000 pound capacity.

Following an executive session, the board gave Collins

permission to seek bids from Mt. Vernon auto dealerships for a new seven-passenger van the agency can use for business trips and conventions. Collins currently drives a 1996 Ford Bronco which has high mileage and is not fuel efficient.

Collins said the board will use cash funds available for the purchase, noting the cash on hand balance has grown from \$105,000 to \$123,000 over the last two fiscal years.

The board also approved bonuses of \$2,000 each for maintenance supervisor Ronnie Mosier and administrative assistant Mary Barnett-Johnson.

Collins also told the board that next month would require two meetings, with the regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 9 and a special meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 16 to officially approve the budget.

*rhayes@morningsentinel.com*