

# Board approves new tax levy

The new tax levy was made after a mistake appeared in the one approved last month

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MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Board approved a new tax levy Tuesday after a mistake was discovered in the one approved last month.

“We want to be sure we’re doing everything correct,” Airport Manager Chris Collins said. “It was my mistake, and I want to fix this.”

The mistake was made in creating the tax levy from last year before the certified values were released by the county. Collins explained he took the previous year levy, added the 5 percent increase allowed under the property tax

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limitations and submitted that amount for approval by the airport board. However, when he went to the County Clerk office to file the levy, he discovered the certified amount was less — meaning the tax levy he was going to file was more than a 5 percent increase.

“The actual levy last year was \$112,431,” Collins said. “The certified value came in at \$109,267 — which was a big difference.”

The previous levy approved last month was at \$118,000 and the new amount levied by the airport on Tuesday came in at \$114,730, which will be assessed in 2013 and collected in 2014.

“What I learned is to wait for the certified amounts,” Collins said. “We have always tried to do the tax levy at the same time we do the budget, but we will have to do them separately in the future. ... If we had left the tax levy where it was at, someone could come in and say we didn’t have a Truth in Taxation hearing, and we never intended to do that.”

The board also heard a presentation from branding committee member Todd Piper, who presented information on the recent branding project undertaken in the community. Piper explained the festival arts city concept that is being developed and invited the airport

to be a part of the branding effort.

When discussing upcoming events scheduled at the airport, board member Mike Ancona said the airport has been promoting shows and festivals for many years. Many of the events bring in visitors to the city from across the United States, and some events from other nations.

“We’ve been doing the branding study for quite a while,” Ancona said. “It sounds like the airports been doing this for quite a while, at least the last six years. ... I’m not on one of the (branding) committees or anything, but I get the

feeling in doing this, they also want to get the airport on board. Well, we’re on board.”

In other business, the board:

■ Approved a proposal for services from Edmison and Associates for design work on a hangar for Innovation Park;

■ Approved a switch from Ameren to Direct Energy for airport electricity needs, locking in rates for the next three years and at an expected savings of \$2,300 per year; and

■ Approved annual raises for Mary Barnett-Johnson, Ted Smith and Larry Hughes.

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