

Airport Authority approves tax levy increase

By **DEREK BEIGH**

derek.beigh@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority approved a request for a 5 percent increase to its 2012 property tax levy at its annual budget hearing Aug. 16.

The request will allow the airport to receive the maximum increase in property tax revenue allowed in Jefferson County without further paperwork and a public hearing under Property Tax Evaluation Limit protocols.

The request will not affect property tax calculations, which are based on the previous year's levy, \$107,077.47, and several other fac-

tors including new construction and the consumer price index. It will, however, allow the airport to receive the amount requested — \$112,431.34 — if the airport's share of property tax revenue is determined to be at or above that value.

Chief County Assessment Officer Steve Lueker said, given the large amount of new construction in last year's airport property tax valuation and the continuing downturn in the economy and consumer price index, he'd be surprised if airport property had increased in value at least the 5 percent requested.

Airport Manager Chris Collins said although the airport hasn't received the full 5 percent increase in previous years, he's hopeful new construction will increase the property's value enough to justify the bump.

"We very rarely get (5 percent); It's usually more like 4.3 (percent). In the last two or three years it's been less — last year our request was \$108,718, and we got a 3.4 percent increase," he said. "We probably won't get 112,000. It'll be more like 111. It'll come down to our new equalized assessed value and the consumer price index; it's not anything we can do now."

9-7-11