

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held September 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM

Present: Gary Chesney	Chairman
Eddie Lee	Vice Chairman
Ryan Wellmaker	Secretary
Mike Ancona	Treasurer
Marty Cox	Commissioner

Staff: Chris Collins  
Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Steve Willis, Don Lewis, Ruth Anne Strawn, Steve Modert, Mike & Carla Payne, Ross Calliott, and Mason Tate.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Many in the room made positive remarks about the recently completed Midwest LSA Expo. Great weather, good attitudes by exhibitors and attendees, and strong hospitality provided by the local team made the weekend a success for all involved.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the August 13th, Meeting for approval. There being no changes to the minutes, motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

#### **Treasurers' Reports**

There being no concerns with the Treasurer's Reports, motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Reports as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor of the motion.

#### **Bills for Approval**

There being no questions or concerns with the Bills for Approval, motion was made and seconded to approve the bills as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There being none, Chairman Chesney moved forward with the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Snow Plow**

Mr. Collins provided a NTE \$5000 estimate from FAST Truck Repair to rehabilitate the airport's 1997 Ford FL700 Dump Truck w/10' electrically operated plow. Since the estimate was below Mr. Collins' \$6500 threshold, he recommended approval of the project. Mr. Collins reiterated having three units would be beneficial by allowing faster

snow removal and/or providing a spare machine. Motion was made by Commissioner Wellmaker and seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the FAST Truck Repair estimate of Not to Exceed \$5000 as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

### **KR National Gathering**

Mr. Collins reminded the Commissioners the KR pilot/builder/enthusiast friends return this weekend. Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> will be filled with forums, hangar flying, and hopefully – flying. Mr. Collins encouraged the Commissioners to come out and say “welcome back” to the members of this friendly group of aviators.

### **Culverts/Fencing**

Mr. Collins mentioned the maintenance staff completed the installation of the 36” diameter culverts a couple weeks ago. All that remains is some rip rap installed on the inlet side and the project can be considered finished for this year. Mr. Collins presented an updated quotation from the fence contractor that supplied the lowest repair bid last fall. Since so much time has elapsed and the scope was increased due to damage caused by a falling tree, an updated price was necessary. The cost to complete all repairs is \$5900. Since time is of the essence (wet conditions/winter), Mr. Collins recommended approval of the quotation. Motion was made by Commissioner Wellmaker and seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the quotation submitted by Jarnigan Fence Company. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor. Mr. Collins explained the culverts and fence repairs are covered in the Momentum 2023 Line Item titled Fencing/Repairs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance 2019-05**

Mr. Collins presented the Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance 2019-05 for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Wellmaker to approve the Ordinance as presented.. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

### **Solar Farm**

Mr. Collins noted he had met recently with Affordable Gas and Electric regarding the possibility of erecting and operating a solar farm at the airport. The airport has the option to generate power via solar for its own consumption (net metering) and/or sell on the open market (utility scale farming). Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Ross Calliott and Mr. Mason Tate of Affordable Gas and Electric. Based on information collected from the previous meeting, Mr. Calliott focused his presentation on a net metering system for the airport. With a design goal of generating 90% of the airport’s current consumption, a 380KW capacity solar system would be required. The total cost of a 380KW system would be in the \$700,000 to \$950,000 range depending upon timing and the ability to receive State incentives such as Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC). With the assumption some SREC incentives could be realized, Mr. Colliott noted the total cost of the solar system could be in the range of \$450,000 - \$600,000. Using these numbers and the airport’s annual utility costs of approximately \$80,000, payback for a potential system is in the seven to ten year range. From this point, Mr. Colliott answered several questions regarding panel efficiency, panel life, and maintenance. The panels are warranted for 25

years but life is not limited to this threshold. Efficiency degrades slightly every year similar but not as drastic as half-life. Mr. Calloitt gave an example of a solar farm near Effingham that is nearly 30 years old that is still 60% efficient. Discussion ensued about the placement of the airport's system. Ground mount, roof mount, parking lot canopy mounts are all options but most in the room favored a simple, less costly ground mount system. All that would be required is a 6.5" diameter hole suitable for the mount poles to be driven in the ground. Racking would connect pole to pole to form a panel array. Mr. Calloitt noted the panels would be tilted at approximately 30 degrees relative to the ground. The Commissioners asked Mr. Calloitt about the time needed to complete a project. He responded by stating that after Ameren approves the system, 30 days would be needed for construction. Mr. Collins noted there were several studies and determinations required by the FAA. First up would be the FAA7460 Airspace Determination. This study takes approximately two months. Assuming there are no objections in the 7460, an FAA Glare Study would need to be completed. Mr. Collins explained he has no knowledge as to how long this study could take. Once the Glare Study turns up no objections, a Compatible Land Use Release (either in temporary or permanent form), would be required. Mr. Collins explained this process ensures that the land used by the sponsor's initiative could not/would not be used for any aviation purpose. The Compatible Land Use Release could take one to three years. The Commissioners and Mr. Collins expressed excitement about the possibility of taking a big chunk out of the airport budget's third most costly expense line item. Mr. Collins noted that financing will play a big part in this project as the airport is inside the Momentum 2023 Capital Plan with little funding available. A willing partner or bank would be required if the project were to be undertaken prior to 2023. Mr. Coillett stated his company could not finance the project but would be happy to assist the airport in finding funding through local banking institutions. Since this large, short term expense has the potential to produce a long term cost savings, it is something that should be explored. The Commissioners asked Mr. Coillett to return with more information.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no Executive Session items, no additional Other Business items, and no further items for discussion on the Agenda, motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.