

Airport Authority welcomes new board member

The board also hired a new maintenance superintendent

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners welcomed a new board member during its recent meeting.

Carey Lipps of Mount Vernon filled the vacancy after Eddie Lee recently announced his resignation, due to moving to Nashville, Tennessee. Lipps was a part of his family's company, Lipps Construction, for 40 years, and ran the business until his retirement.

"It is an honor to be on the board," Lipps said. "I know everybody on the board and have known Chris (Collins, airport director) for

years."

Lipps said that he has been involved with the airport through his construction business.

"I built the last new set of T-hangars here and I built the last two big box hangars," Lipps said. "I have been around it for years and I am on the board to try and help out in any capacity that I can. Chris is such a good manager, it is just enjoyable to see how he thinks and operates and I like his positive attitude and the airport's positive attitude."

Collins said that Lipps will be a good addition to the board.

"He has a tremendous amount of construction management knowledge," Collins said. "I am really excited to have him on the team here with his vast knowledge on project management."

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The airport also approved Matthew Colvin as the new maintenance superintendent. He is replacing Ronnie Mosier, who is retiring after 40 years of service.

"We were tasked with replacing the irreplaceable," Collins said. "I don't think the community knows how valuable a resource Ronnie Mosier is. This a person that comes to the airport seven days week and does the inspections."

Colvin has had experience filling in at the airport and is also a volunteer firefighter and EMT with the Webber Fire Protection District.

"I have been out there for over 10 years, just filling in," Colvin said. "If someone was sick I was there to help mow, blade snow, equipment maintenance and stuff like that."

"He is very qualified to

do the job. He is an equipment operator, has a vast knowledge base on electrical, HVAC, carpentry," Collins said. "He knows this facility very well."

The board also approved a ramp lighting upgrade. Collins said that the current ramp lighting for the aircraft apron on the runway has gotten old.

"I would say the ones that are working are probably from the 80s and they put off an orange glow," Collins said. "An interesting thing that has made us move quickly is that Ameren has a 58 percent rebate going on until Dec. 31 on parking lot lights or ramp lights like these."

Collins said they had three bids for the project and Butler Supply Fixtures was the low bidder at \$243.33 per lighting fixture.

"We have 15 of these lights. After the rebate is applied, the total cost of this project is \$1,523.75," Collins said.

"Everyone will notice much brighter lights that

will have a white glow and the best part about this is, we are going to see a significant energy savings on these lights that burn from dusk to daylight every day, 365 days a year," Collins said.

The plan is to have the project completed by the end of the year.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- The airport board approved a cash farm lease, approving the high bid submitted by Alan and Lori Bowers for \$37,222.74. This is leased for three years covering 222 acres of farm land, which is \$167.66 an acre.

- The board approved a property and equipment insurance policy with Guy Wood Insurance. The policy increased 4.8 percent, with the renewal premium at \$26,009.

- The board approved moving the excess funds (\$548.75) from its Aviation Explorer's Post Fund to EAA 1155 Aviation Scholarship Fund.

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jjones@morningsentinel.com