

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held April 14th, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Present: Gary Chesney	Chairman
Marty Cox	Vice Chairman
Ryan Wellmaker	Secretary
Mike Ancona	Treasurer
Carey Lipps	Commissioner

Staff: Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Don Lewis

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

There being no comments from the public, Chairman Chesney moved forward on the Agenda.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the March 10th, 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**

#### **Energy Project**

Mr. Collins provided a recap of a meeting held with Affordable Gas and Electric on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Further scrutiny of the solar energy proposals was the focus of the meeting. Mr. Collins reiterated no SREC assistance is currently available, so the look was through the lens of the airport bearing all costs. AGE's Jeff Haarman and Ross Calliot centered on two particular proposals that are the closest to implementation. Mr. Collins noted one of the prominent proposals was not considered during the discussion due to its location on the Koziara Terminal roof. Mr. Collins presented a side by side

comparison of the two proposals. One proposal costs the airport nothing out of pocket, saves the airport a small amount every year, and the airport does not own the system until late in the system's operational life. The first proposal would require lots of FAA and IDOT involvement. The second proposal would not require much FAA/IDOT involvement, would save/make the airport money after year seven, but would require a redirection of the airport's capital development plans for the next seven years. All those involved feel that if such a project is pursued, it should be re-bid since a more defined area and system would be specified. Mr. Collins noted that since there is no SREC help available, the airport has time to thoroughly discuss any such project over the next several months. Discussion ensued. The Commissioners expressed their feelings about spending large amounts of money in an effort to save money over the long term, trying to be better energy consumers, leaving something for future generations, doing more homework, and watching the trends and changes in the energy industry.

Although not an item of Old Business, Mr. Collins provided an update on several projects the airport maintenance guys have completed lately. A track hoe was rented for one month and trees were cleared on Seven Mile Creek along the approach to Runway 23. Mr. Collins mentioned this has not been done in a decade and provided photographs. While the track hoe was on site, the maintenance staff did some clearing of the proposed farm ground north of Old Fairfield Road and west of the country club, cleaned out a large overgrowth area north of Runway 23, and sloped the large ditch from the north fence down to the intersection of the runways. In addition to this work, the new carpet squares have been installed in the Koziara Terminal Banquet Room and 100% preventative weed spraying of the perimeter fence has been completed. Mr. Collins thanked Matt Colvin, Leroy Hughes, and Steve Modert for their efforts. Mr. Collins also thanked Chairman Chesney for his work in bringing the "T" hangar electrical service pedestal back to level grade.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Koziara Terminal Fire Alarm**

Mr. Collins informed the Commissioners that each December Security Alarm Corporation conducts an annual inspection on the existing fire alarm system. During the last inspection, something really got his attention – everything Security Alarm tested failed! Mr. Collins secured an estimate from Security Alarm to upgrade the system. After many telephone calls, he was able to secure several "apples to apples" estimates from providers in the region. Mr. Collins presented the information from Security Alarm, the equipment list that company provided, and the bid tabulations. Barcom Security, based in Belleville, Illinois, provided the most economical bid at \$7409 with \$50 per month monitoring services. Electronic Architech, submitted the second lowest bid at \$8845 with \$40 per month monitoring services. Four additional estimates ranged from \$10,000 - \$14,000. Mr. Collins noted he was comfortable with Barcom after that company's representative answered several questions and he obtained approval of the company and equipment list from a friend in the fire alarm industry (connected with the airport and living in Florida). He noted that since Electronic Architech's bid is not within 10% of the low bid, he felt the project should not be awarded to anyone but the low bidder. Discussion ensued with the Commissioners asking more questions about

Barcom. Spot research revealed the company has been in business since 1974 and is very active in a tri-state region. Motion was made by Commissioner Wellmaker and seconded by Commissioner Lipps to approve the low bid submitted by Barcom. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor. Mr. Collins noted the funds for the project will come from Capital Projects. There is some wriggle room due to the ramp lighting project coming in under budget.

### **Surplus Equipment**

For some time now, Mr. Collins stated he has wanted to declare the airport's 1996 Ford Bronco XLT surplus, sell the vehicle, and use the proceeds to purchase a more user friendly courtesy vehicle. The Bronco is currently used as the airport's second courtesy vehicle (a vehicle used to travel to and from town by visiting pilots and aircrews). The Bronco's rear lift gate is unusable so the vehicle is difficult for more than two people to use – especially if they have luggage. Mr. Collins noted the reason for bringing this idea before the Commissioners at this time for two reasons: #1. The Bronco only has 135,140 miles on its odometer. And #2: Full size Broncos of that era have a cult/collector following. One local Bronco collector estimates the airport's Bronco value at \$6000. A quick look online shows Broncos with many more miles at prices higher than \$6000. Mr. Collins recommended listing the Bronco on eBay or do a local silent auction (with reserve). After the Bronco is sold, the airport could purchase a newer mini-van to compliment the other mini-van in the courtesy car fleet. Motion was made by Commissioner Ancona and seconded by Commissioner Lipps to declare the 1996 Ford Bronco XLT surplus. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Collins provided his views on the impacts of Covid-19. He stated the airport is a different place after March 16, 2020. No restaurant, Hertz employees furlowed, no community meetings, and very little flying. In the three weeks of social distancing and non-essential traveling, there has only been a few economic development/business retention flights. No automotive plants working translates to no just in time cargo flights. The U.S. Military has been idled for at least 60 days. Only a few based tenants have flown their aircraft. This has had a dramatic impact on fuel sales. Mr. Collins estimates a 75% decrease. The airport was having a great year until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Collins mentioned that with the exception of Flightline Aero Services, there has been little financial impacts so far. However, he sees a problem in May, June, and July. With non-essential businesses shut down, they are unable to pay their monthly/quarterly sales taxes. This will translate to reduced Personal Property Replacement Taxes being distributed to the local governments. The FY2020/2021 budget will be impacted. He noted Administrative Assistance Sheila Jolly Scrivner has been investigating the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) and has made contact with the airport's banker. She is awaiting his answer to the question – is a governing body eligible for this Federal stimulus program. The airport did not lay anyone off upon the Governor's Stay at Home Order. But there will be a negative effect in 90 days due to the dramatic decrease in tax revenues. On a positive note, the FAA released a report that shows the airport will receive \$30,000 in emergency relief from the Federal CARES Act. No mention was made of when the funds would be available or the process required on the sponsor's end to receive the funds. Mr.

Collins noted the FAA used its 2012 Asset Study to classify airports and funds were allocated along the 2012 Asset Study's classification lines. Mr. Collins expressed his frustration that 14 CFR Part 139, based aircraft inventory, infrastructure size, or operating budget did not seem to be factors in how the FAA classified the airports.

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.