

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Held August 11th, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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

Absent: Ryan Wellmaker Treasurer

Staff: Chris Collins & Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Mike & Carla Payne, Don Lewis, and Ruth Ann Strawn

PUBLIC INPUT

Don Lewis mentioned he has observed much more jet traffic lately. Mr. Collins concurred and noted he will be addressing this issue in Old Business. Carla Payne stated she, husband Mike, and SRT's Danny Jewell assisted a medical transport flight the previous evening. The crew was very pleased the team was able to secure a King Air Super 350 inside the Community Hangar ahead of a severe thunderstorm. Carla also explained that husband Mike conducted an "Aerial Zoom Meeting" from above Rend Lake yesterday. The subject – flight training.

REPORTS

Minutes

Minutes were presented for the July 14th, 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 no items of correspondence, Chairman Cox moved forward on the Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Project Updates

Culvert Re-Installation: Mr. Collins presented photos from the recent culvert re-installation project. Two 36 inch diameter by 30 feet length culverts were installed in the summer of 2019 after the fence was heavily damaged by Tropical Depression Gordon in September, 2018. Mr. Collins used the word “re-installation” since the repair area was damaged again by flooding rains in the late winter/early spring this year. Airport Maintenance, using a rented skid steer and backhoe (loaned generously by Jax Asphalt), re-installed the two culverts nearly two weeks ago. This time, more separation was placed between the culverts, the material was compacted, and much more rip rap was installed. Mr. Collins directed the Commissioners to the photos and praised the airport maintenance staff for a professional installation! As for the fence, Mr. Collins stated the poor repair job done last summer did not fare very well during this year’s flood event either. The maintenance guys simply hung the fence “fabric” from a steel cable spanning the gap. Mr. Collins’ plan is to ask the professional fence contractor to repair the fence when that company is on site for the State/Federal project this fall (Install Interior Fence). It will be costly but is certainly necessary. Mr. Collins stated he would like to pay Jax Asphalt something for the use of their backhoe. He believes \$500 is a fair payment for two days of use. The Commissioners agreed. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Lipps to extend a payment of \$500 to Jax Asphat. Upon roll call vote, all were in order.

ARMY Firefighting Team: Mr. Collins provided a commentary on the Illinois ARMY National Guard’s 661st Engineering Detachment Firefighting Team’s training exercises last month. Nearly twenty military firefighters and their large pieces of equipment were guests over the weekend of July 25th. The team utilized the airport’s ARFF Training Grounds and ARFF Training Aircraft. The military firefighters were appreciative of being able to operate at a real airport and use real aircraft for real world training! Mr. Collins thanked Chairman Cox for his photos and upcoming video production of this exciting event.

Corporate Aircraft Association: Mr. Collins directed the Commissioners to a photo page detailing several jet aircraft, their routes, and the amount of fuel each purchased since the airport was named a Corporate Aircraft Association Preferred Operation. In the first two weeks of being in the program, an additional 2500 gallons of jet fuel was sold and 18 additional jet aircraft operations were logged! Mr. Collins explained that a large portion of the crews have also eaten at the restaurant. The feedback has been great! Several have stated KMVN is perfectly positioned along their route and they will make the airport a regular stop on each trip.

NEW BUSINESS

Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance 2020-04

Mr. Collins presented the Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance 2020-04 for approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Ancona and seconded by Commissioner Chesney to approve the Ordinance as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Midwest LSA Expo

Mr. Collins noted that except for worries surrounding COVID-19, the event is on “auto-pilot” at this point. Unless something changes in Governor Pritzker’s Plan, he believes the event can safely be held. The following appears on the event website:

Midwest LSA Expo is concerned for the health and safety of all attendees, exhibitors, volunteers, and airport employees. The expo will adhere to CDC, State of Illinois, and Jefferson County Health Department recommendations. Social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing, and the encouragement of good personal hygiene will be stressed. With 100% of the expo activities occurring either outdoors on the airport’s ten acre concrete ramp (aircraft/ancillary displays) or inside the airport’s Corporate Hangar (forums/seminars), Illinois Phase IV Guidelines can be met or exceeded. Thanks to the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency, Midwest LSA Expo has more than enough PPE and sanitizer for all attendees, exhibitors, volunteers, and airport employees.

Mr. Collins stated he and Ms. Scrivner have spent the last several weeks debating the pros and cons. With exhibitors and attendees desiring an event, and the airport has a plan to safely accommodate all guests, the pair feel there is no reason to cancel. A lengthy discussion about all parameters surrounding the event led to the Commissioners agreeing with Mr. Collins and Ms. Scrivner. Midwest LSA Expo #12 is a go.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Collins stated Jay Grafton began his official duties as Aviation Programs Director on Monday. Jay already has several flight lessons scheduled for the week.

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.

Executive Session

August 11, 2020

Mr. Collins briefed the Commissioners on the status of Airgo, Incorporated. The owner of Airgo met with Mr. Collins a week or so ago and informed him the company was unable to pay its past due or future balances moving forward due to “liquidity issues resulting from COVID-19”. Mr. Collins was contacted soon after by the company’s Air Operations Director inquiring about the Lease Agreement for A-1100. He simply wanted to know if the airport had intentions of terminating the Lease Agreement. After checking with Ms. Scrivner about Airgo’s past due balance and seeing the magnitude of that balance, he drafted and submitted a letter informing the company that the Lease would be terminated at the end of August unless the past due balance was paid in full. Mr. Collins stated he is exploring ways of protecting the MVAA for worst case scenarios – including a lien on an Airgo aircraft. The Commissioners agreed with the approach taken by Mr. Collins and asked to be kept updated.