

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Held December 8th, 2020 at 6:00 PM

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

Staff: Chris Collins & Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Leland Widick, Dan Dare, Duane Sink, Steve Modert, Don Lewis, Ruth Ann Strawn, Joe Suarez, and Mike & Carla Payne

PUBLIC INPUT

Mike Payne praised all involved in the recent incident involving a Piper PA44 Seminole:

Piper Seminole N73250's nose wheel would not extend upon entering the pattern to land at Centralia. The Centralia Fire Department diverted the aircraft to KMVN due to KMVN's ARFF capabilities. After a low level fly-but (to obtain a visual on the landing gear), the instructor pilot and two students circled to burn fuel before making an emergency landing at 9:18 p.m. on Saturday, December 5th. No injuries occurred. The first response was exceptional and Team MVN Members worked their roles to near perfection!

Thanks to the skill of the pilot, and help with all those on the ground – the incident resulted in no injuries. *“Well done team!”*

REPORTS

Minutes

Minutes were presented for the November 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

Mr. Collins presented the Agenda for the upcoming December Meeting of the Greater Egypt Regional Economic Commission. Also presented were the Minutes from the commission's November Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

New AvGas Truck

Mr. Collins explained the F-450 truck in Sauget sold to another entity. Too much time was spent waiting for pricing from an Ohio vendor. After finally receiving a proposal from the Ohio vendor and discussing the situation with a third vendor in Kansas, it has become clear the airport will not obtain a more favorable price than that submitted by incumbent vendor American Refueler in Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Collins noted the best course of action is to continue shopping for a suitable truck cab/chassis. Since another \$20,000 is needed for the total project, the airport will have no choice but to delay the purchase until the additional funds are available. He believes those funds could be available in late summer, 2021. Mr. Collins stated it is important to ensure bedrock funding is in place inside the Flightline Aero Services Account to purchase an 8000 gallon load of Jet A and an 8500 gallon load of AvGas simultaneously.

Project Updates

Mr. Collins noted there is not much to report this month. Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin has been readying the snow removal fleet; Maintenance Assistant Leroy Hughes has been working at the various airport rental houses performing much needed maintenance and renovations. Below are some additional updates:

New "T"/Box Hangar Project: Holcomb Foundation Engineering was on site on Monday, November 23rd to complete the new soil borings on and near the southern end of the millings pile. At the same time of the drilling, airport operations staff were conducting the semi-annual ARFF Crash Truck Routine Discharge. Holcomb drilled in the wrong locations so the company will be back to repeat the project on Monday, December 7th.

Economic Impact Study: The Mesa, Arizona based contractor, Kimley-Horn, provided a submission date of November 30th. Mr. Collins stated he is very pleased to report that Team MVN had nearly a 100% participation rate! Most submitted their Tenant Surveys directly to Mr. Collins so he has much information in the file. Along with Tenant and Airport Management Surveys, he also was allowed to submit photographs (he forwarded 30 of his best), and an accurate airport description. Working through the file, Mr. Collins counts ***nearly 130 total jobs at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport!*** Since Kash Helicopters, Epilepsy Foundation of Southern Illinois, D. Sink Aviation, Air-Evac, and SRT Aviation submitted directly to Kimley-Horn, he does not have payroll numbers for these Team MVN Members. Those Team MVN Members that submitted to Mr. Collins have a ***combined annual payroll of \$4,004,074!*** Events such as Midwest LSA Expo Airventure Cup Race do not contain a payroll. But Mr. Collins reasons they still contribute a nearly \$350,000 - \$400,000 economic impact. Mr. Collins notes

it is going to be exciting to see what the professionals at Kimley-Horn create based on the Team MVN submissions. He anticipates the final report to be released sometime late in 2021.

Fire Alarm/Insurance: Although no action was taken on this subject at last month's meeting, Mr. Collins stated he wanted to reveal the airport narrowly avoided another significant loss recently. On the morning of Saturday, November 26th, he entered the maintenance building and discovered the building was full of electrical smoke. Mr. Collins discovered the air compressor had been running for who knows how long. He turned it off at the breaker and vented the building. On Monday, the maintenance guys discovered an air line running between the two cylinders had corroded, placing the motor in 100% run mode (he estimates the compressor would not pull extra current to trip the breaker?). The compressor motor is a total loss as it was the lubricant burning that created the smoke. The compressor has since been replaced (with secondary shut-offs) and Mr. Collins explained he has asked the guys to investigate other potential sources of ignition. Mr. Collins stated he is still unsure about an alarm system but wanted to make the Commissioners aware a crisis was avoided.

NEW BUSINESS

Flight Simulation Lab

Mr. Collins stated "this one is exciting!" Leland Widick, dba Safe Aviation Educators, has purchased and is busy installing a brand new Redbird LD Flight Simulator in Koziara Terminal Suite "A". Mr. Collins welcomed Mr. Widick and flight student/radio specialist Mr. Dan Dare. Leland spent 20 years as Chief Flight Instructor at SIUC. He stated he completed his Master's Thesis on computerized training/simulation. "*The actual airplane can be the worst learning environment. The ability to learn in a simulator reduces the total time a pilot spends on Private Pilot License by ten hours.*" - Leland Widick. Mr. Widick explained he is proud to partner with the airport to make this opportunity available.

Mr. Collins stated why this is such a big opportunity for the airport. The Redbird Simulator will allow based student and regional pilots a realistic tool to learn and practice concepts on the ground. The Redbird will allow Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton to continue teaching during poor weather. Mr. Collins read the following from a Press Release covering this fantastic opportunity:

Team MVN is incredibly excited to welcome this expansion by one of its long-time members – Safe Aviation Educators. The addition of the Redbird LD Simulator will allow pilots on a regional level to learn new skills in an easily forgiving environment and to practice procedures when weather does not allow training in actual aircraft. Technological opportunities like this are only found at university aviation programs or professional pilot training centers!

The Commissioners asked Mr. Widick what the hourly charge will be for simulation time. Mr. Widick stated he is still researching but figures the rate will likely be \$75. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Widick for his partnership and devotion to aviation. Commissioner Chesney stated *“we are seeing lots of progress in a tough year”!* Commissioner Ancona stated *“we love you Leland!”*

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Scrivner presented a Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) Summary detailing bi-monthly PPRT payments for the last 12 years. To the surprise of everyone, Calendar Year 2020 was a “good” year at \$162,603 essentially matching the 2017 total. The 2019 total was exceptional, while 2018 and 2016’s totals were lower. Ms. Scrivner, Mr. Collins, and the Commissioners were thankful the numbers were as good as they were despite the closures of many businesses due to the pandemic.

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.