

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Held September 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: Don Lewis, Ruth Ann Strawn, Don Pruett, & John Branson

PUBLIC INPUT

There being none, Chairman Cox moved forward on the Agenda.

REPORTS

Minutes

Minutes were presented for the August 11th, 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

Mr. Collins pointed the Commissioners to photos pages inside their booklets regarding the following (italicized):

Bonnie Café Traffic - Mr. Collins stated the restaurant is drawing aircraft from across the region. Weekdays are good, but the weekends have been exceptional. On Saturday, August 25th pilots and passengers from Flora, Olney, Lawrenceville, Carbondale, Marion, and several St. Louis Metro Airports shared a meal together!

Runway 15/33 Painting – Mr. Collins explained the maintenance staff has been busy painting and striping. A photo showing Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin using the airport's walk behind paint machine drew some additional discussion. Mr. Collins pointed out the custom made glass bead hopper system Mr. Colvin and Maintenance Assistant Larry Hughes are using was fabricated in house with available components – saving the airport \$750. Commissioner Wellmaker stated the typical system is in the \$1500 range.

ARFF Station Interior Remodel - Mr. Collins noted the City Firefighters are about 75% complete with their interior remodel of the City/Airport ARFF Station. No changes have been made on the inside of the station since it was constructed in 1974. Although no definitive total cost estimate has been offered, Mr. Collins has been told the project is in excess of \$75,000. The project was paid for by the Firefighters Foreign Fire Fund (FFF) which is funded in large part by insurance premiums. The firefighters asked the airport to go 50/50 on demolition/replacement of the exterior patio. Mr. Collins displayed photos of the badly deteriorated patio. Mr. Collins recommends moving forward with the project since this needs to be completed and the firefighters had made such a sizeable investment. The project cost is a Not-to-Exceed \$3000. The Commissioners approved Mr. Collins' request.

Kash Helicopter Services. The last photo page contains some shots related to Kash Helicopter Services. Mr. Collins noted the growing business has outgrown its small footprint inside the Community Hangar and is impeding the use of the hangar by the airport (large aircraft storage, events, etc). Mr. Collins stated will present a proposal in Executive Session.

CAA Program. Mr. Collins noted that since being activated on July 23rd, the airport has sold over 5200 gallons of Jet A to member aircraft. 5200 gallons in 1.5 months!!!

NEW BUSINESS

There being no items of New Business, Chairman Cox moved forward on the Agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Collins noted that Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton has been very busy flight instructing. He currently has several active (fly multiple times per week) and occasional students.

Mr. Collins reminded the Commissioners of the Midwest LSA Expo that will begin on Thursday. Since the expo is the only national aviation event, the turnout could be huge.

Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin thanked the Commissioners for and provided an update on the new backhoe. The machine is a 2005 John Deere 310-SG. Mr. Colvin explained the paint on the machine is somewhat faded, but it is a strong running machine.

Mr. Collins noted there will be a local Triumph (Trump) Rally at the airport on Friday, October 2nd. The rally is organized by several community women led by Mrs. Susan Drennan. The rally will follow the same format as the rally held in March. State Representative Darren Bailey from Louisville is the keynote speaker.

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
September 8th, 2020

Mr. Collins there has been no contact by Airgo so he will very soon issue a letter cancelling their Lease Agreement for Hangar A-1100. He stated he placed a Lien on Airgo owned Piper Seneca N47KW to counter the debt Airgo owes the MVAA. Although the Lien appears on the FAA Document Index as being active, Mr. Collins' sources say official effect takes approximately four weeks after being filed. That places an effective date of the Lien around mid-September. Mr. Collins stated he will send the letter of cancellation and notice of the Lien on Friday this week.

As for Hangar A-1100, growing Team MVN Member Kash Helicopter Services is very interested in moving to a larger facility. Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Don Pruett and Mr. John Branson from Kash Helicopter Services. Don is co-owner and John in the Maintenance Director. The pair provided an overview of the company. Currently, Kash operates two flyable aircraft. The aircraft, service equipment, and tools currently occupy the North side of the airport's Community Hangar. The company's offices are located in the southwest side of the Koziara Terminal. Assets are spread out and privacy is an issue. Kash Helicopter Services currently has ten employees – four based at the airport. The company has a crawl, walk, run philosophy so growth has been very calculated and gradual. By this time next year, Kash Helicopters intends to be operating three aircraft and have additional employees. Mr. Pruett noted the company could locate nearly anywhere but desires to stay at the airport due to the family atmosphere. He specifically identified SRT Aviation, the restaurant, and Mr. Collins. Kash Helicopter Services has two markets – agricultural spraying and heavy lift. Agricultural markets are sound and growing each year. The company just recently entered the heavy lift industry and is earning a great reputation. Lifts are completed using the company's UH1 "Huey". Mr. Pruett sees much future potential based on 2020 work with utilities and telecommunications companies. Mr. Branson briefed the Commissioners on another business line – helicopter maintenance. With two full time aviation maintenance technicians and the knowledge shared between them, the company will soon seek an FAA Repair Station Certificate. This certification will allow the company to perform maintenance on non Kash Helicopters. Kash has no intent on performing maintenance on fixed wing aircraft. The discussion turned toward financial issues. Mr. Pruett stated he has been working closely with Mr. Collins and understands the rental amount sought by the MVAA. At this point in the life of Kash Helicopters, the company cannot afford that amount. However, with the addition of a third helicopter in 2021, it needs more space. Mr. Pruett asked the Commissioners if they would entertain a Lease Agreement with a stepped rental amount. Mr. Pruett proposed \$1000 per month for year one and would work with Mr. Collins to specify the rental amount in years two through five. The \$2000 per month ceiling would be achieved in year five. To help, Mr. Pruett and Mr. Branson, along with pilot/carpentry contractor Ron Brushwitz would tackle some interior improvements in the office structure. Discussion ensued. Mr. Collins explained Kash Helicopter Services has been a dedicated team member and pointed to Mr. Pruett never

turning down an event flyover request. He also expressed his excitement on having another FBO based on the field (concentrating on helicopters). This would be another fantastic opportunity to bring additional outside revenues to Mt. Vernon! The Commissioners were as eager as Mr. Collins to work with Kash Helicopter Services and directed Mr. Collins to draft a Lease Agreement.