

Airport approves tentative budget ordinance

The airport will freeze its property tax levy once again

BY JOSH JONES
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners approved its tentative annual budget and appropriations ordinance during a recent meeting.

Please see **Airport**, Page 2A

Airport:

Continued from Page 1A

According to information provided by the airport, the airport reported \$101,812 cash on hand as of May 1. The airport is projecting total revenues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year at \$534,316 and is projecting total expenditures at \$532,816. The airport is projecting to have \$112,312 of cash on hand for April 30, 2022. Airport Director Chris Collins went into further detail on the tentative budget.

"It was fairly straightforward and you will notice that I am recommending freezing the property tax levy again at \$123,128, that will be year seven," Collins said.

Highlights in revenues that the airport is projecting include \$78,849 in aviation fees, \$79,483 in rental income, \$123,128 in property tax, \$170,000 in Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) and more. Collins said that he is relying on the PPRT to offset keeping the property tax levy frozen.

"Someone is probably thinking how can we do that and I am kind of relying on the Personal Property Replacement Tax to carry us over the finish line," Collins said.

Collins said that recently the airport has been perplexed by the increase in PPRT, but said that while he wasn't 100% certain, he could speculate as to the reason why.

"The State of Illinois passed legislation collecting internet sales taxes and they are disseminated throughout the local districts," Collins said. "I am not 100% confident that is why, but that is a pretty good indicator. I am

hopeful that one addition will carry us across the finish line and end the fiscal year with another positive, without having to raise property taxes."

Highlights in expenditures include \$177,400 in salaries, \$66,000 for maintenance and \$102,000 for insurance.

Collins said that insurance is an expenditure that mostly increases every year.

"We have crossed the six-figure threshold," Collins said. "It is mostly health insurance and property and equipment are the ones that increase the most."

Board Chairman Marty Cox gave his reaction to hearing the plan to freeze the property tax levy once again.

"It is nice to hold the line for seven years in a row, that is very impressive," Cox said. "I am really pleased with that. That is a long time not to raise it."

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- Collins gave an update on the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Fire Station project.

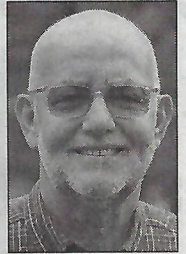
- Collins gave updates on various upcoming projects at the airport.

- The board approved moving forward with the engineering selection for the Innovation Park Turbine Center (Hangar Two). *6-10-21*

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Chris Collins



Marty Cox