

Airport eyes major lighting project

The project is estimated for 2024

BY JOSH JONES
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently received an update regarding a major lighting replacement project at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that they are looking at replacing lights on the primary runway, the cross runway and the taxiways at the airport.

"This is a project that has been on our list for a long time and it is coming into view," Collins said. "We received a program letter from the State of Illinois that these three projects are all going to be done the same year. This is a \$1.96 million project, our local share is \$98,000."

Collins explained the scope of the project, which includes upgrading their lights and system which still uses incandescent lightbulbs.

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Sentinel Photo

LIGHTING PROJECT — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard an update on the approval of a major lighting replacement project at Mount Vernon Outland Airport. The project is estimated to cost \$1.96 million with a local share of \$98,000. The project is estimated for 2024.

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"It will replace all of the vintage wiring that dates back to the late 1960's, with modern day high efficiency state of the art lighting. The taxi lights will be all LED," Collins said. "Essentially it is replacing all of the runway and taxiway lights throughout the facility as well all of the electrical conduit runs. Those are very problematic because of their age. Our guys are always digging something up, changing wiring and transformers. There is just always maintenance going on with this equipment that we have. We spend a lot of money on replacement bulbs, fixtures, transformers, cabling, because of the age."

The project was approved through the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics through the Transportation Improvement Program. Collins said that he believes that project will happen in 2024.

"We are super excited about that project because obviously the new technology saves energy therefore lowering the utility bills," Collins said.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- The board approved a

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bid from Jax Asphalt at \$6,739 for an asphalt overlay at the ARFF station.

The City of Mount Vernon will be working with the airport to install a new culvert at the station.

- The board heard an update on the perimeter access road overlay project. The total cost is \$526,895 with a local share of \$18,011.

- The board heard an update on the sewer line utility project upgrade.

- The board heard an update on the Koziara Terminal parking lot rehabilitation and new air rescue firefighting vehicle projects. Both projects have submitted to the State Local Capital Improvement program.

- The board heard an update on the construction of the Innovation Park Turbine Center (Hangar Two) project.

- The board was given an update on gutter/roof reconstruction project for a hangar.

- The board approved the annual ordinances for the budget and tax levy.

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Chris Collins