

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held April 13, 2021 at 6:00 PM

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

Staff: Chris Collins & Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Hearing none, Chairman Cox moved forward with the meeting. Mr. Collins mentioned there are two new additions to the based aircraft inventory – a brand new HondaJet and Kash Helicopter Services second UH1 “Huey”. Both aircraft arrived during the last week of March.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the March 9th, 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 and Meeting Minutes for the upcoming April Meeting of the Greater Egypt Regional Economic Commission. A copy of the March, 2021 edition of *Outland News* was also presented.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Project Updates**

Mr. Collins provided an update on completed and ongoing projects around the airfield:

*Interior Fence* – The project is complete. Mr. Collins directed the Commissioners to the photos in their booklets. IDOT, IDA signed off on funding the repair area east of Runway 15 late last week so that area contain new IDA Specified fencing also. Hanson’s Barry Stolz lobbied very hard on the airport’s behalf and secured funding inside the existing project. Since the airport bush-hogged and finished mowed the fence installation

area last fall, the \$4000 contractual line item for Clearing/Grubbing was not used. Couple this with some savings on materials and the project being well under budget to begin with – it was an easy sell to all parties. Mr. Collins noted the airport’s local share for the repair area is \$350. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Mr. Stolz’s efforts.

*A-1200 Office* – All that is left is to install flooring, cove base, and electrical outlets/cover plates. Stair rails will need to be installed on the stairs too.

*Mowing* – Airport Maintenance transitioned the equipment from winter to spring and was ready to begin the mowing season. They have been able to keep pace with the grass cutting due to the recent dry weather. The airport campus looks great!

### **Hangar Project**

Mr. Collins noted a decision will need to be made soon as to the best pathway forward for the airport with regard to aircraft storage. For the last several years the Board has been focused on a new five or six place “T” Hangar or Box Hangar development adjacent to the existing “T” Hangars. Little focus has been on Innovation Park except for long range considerations. The ownership entity of the new HondaJet has expressed interest in its own building. A local doctor has recently purchased a single engine turboprop with a wing span far in excess of normal “T” and or box hanger row dimensions. Flights for Christ’s GA8 Airvan, potentially coming in late 2021, will also require a larger “T” or Box Hangar. There is also another local entity looking at a large single or twin-engine turboprop. Mr. Collins explained the airport should probably focus its attention and limited resources at Innovation Park and Hangar #2. A ‘T” or Box Hangar Development capable of storing the doctor’s single engine turboprop and the Airvan would probably add 25% or more cost to that project. With the existing load on the airport’s Community Hangar and Innovation Park Hangar #1, all of the new airplanes will not fit in these two hangars. Mr. Collins recommended a strong look be given and moving forward with Innovation Park Hangar #2. He recommended the aircraft storage/office complex could be titled “Innovation Park Turbine/Corporate Center”. Mr. Collins noted he has been working very hard lately brainstorming financing options, looking into grants, and talking to the various potential tenants to assess their wants and desires. A report on the status of various grant applications will be covered in New Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Salute To Freedom**

Mr. Collins Mr. Collins presented the annual request letter from Tourism Director Angela Schrum for the Annual Salute to Freedom on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This will mark the 36<sup>th</sup> year (the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was cancelled due to COVID-19). Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Wellmaker to approve the Salute to Freedom Celebration. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

### **Community Project Grant(s)**

Mr. Collins provided an update on a recent grant application. He received a letter in late March from Congressman Mike Bost’s office inviting the airport to submit projects to the United States House of Representatives Community Project Funding Program (CPF). The CPF Program will fund projects in FY2022. Mr. Collins explained Mt. Vernon Outland Airport submitted the Innovation Park Utility Upgrade and Hangar #2 Ramp Projects to the CPF Program as

applications were due on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Mr. Collins also provided an update on these projects as well as others:

*Innovation Park Utility Upgrade & Hangar #2 Projects* (U.S. House CPF Program). The project would replace and move the nearly 50 year old 8” force main sanitary pipe from beneath the proposed Innovation Park Hangar #2 Ramp, move various electrical utility lines, and install a new electrical pedestal/meter base in the proposed utility corridor. If described correctly in the upcoming application submittal, the Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project could meet the Congressman’s goals for Economic Development and Job Creation. Since the airport is eligible through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), the split will be 90% Federal, 5% State, and 5% Local. Because of the short turnaround, Mr. Collins warned the Commissioners any award could really be a 90% Federal, 10% Local since State of Illinois participation is questionable. Estimates for the two projects are \$450,000 for the Utilities and \$420,000 for the Hangar #2 Ramp. These projects would cost the airport a maximum of \$87,000.

*Koziara Terminal Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project* (IDOT, IDA State/Local) - funding for this program was supposed to be available in Spring/Summer 2020 through a new IDOT, IDA State/Local Program (Capital Bill). The pandemic slowed the rollout and all signs point to this program being a reality very soon. Sources say the Koziara Terminal Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project scores very high on the IDA list so it should be programmed once funds are released. Engineer’s estimates to rehabilitate the massive Koziara Terminal Parking Lot, apron feeder roads, ‘T’ Hangar South Parking Lot, Aviation Drive, and Firebaugh Drive is \$1,000,000. Since this is a 90% State/10% Local funding split, the local share will be approximately \$100,000.

*Innovation Park Hangar #2 Project* (EDA)– Mr. Collins met with Mr. Cary Minnis, Greater Egypt Regional Economic Development Director, recently about EDA Grants and the possibility of funding Innovation Park Hangar #2 through an EDA Grant. EDA Grants are tied to job creation. Mr. Collins noted preliminary talks with the owners of the HondaJet have led to some potential job creation data but a nearly \$1,000,000 building project needs more jobs to be competitive. Mr. Collins plans to meet with the owners of the HondaJet and other “Innovation Park Turbine/Corporate Center” tenants to discuss further job creation possibilities. In the meantime, Mr. Minnis has asked for airport metrics over the last 15 years detailing the number of on-field jobs and aircraft storage. The thinking is a grant application showing steady job growth, increased based aircraft inventory, and the need for additional aircraft storage space could be competitive. Mr. Collins stated he will provide the requested metrics soon to Mr. Minnis. If eligible for application and selected, EDA Grants carry an 80% Federal, 20% local funding split. The maximum local share would be approximately \$200,000. Mr. Collins explained he has been, and will continue to seek out all sources of funding for the various projects.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Scrivner presented a summary of the Flight Instruction Program. Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton billed 48 hours in March (74% of his monthly salary). Over the first twelve days of April, he has billed 12 hours. Mr. Collins mentioned the gap between 100% efficiency

and billable income is made up for later in aircraft ownership (hangar rental, fuel purchases, and aircraft maintenance).

Mr. Collings mentioned the wonderful donation of a restored Ozark Airlines RC aircraft model by Ozark/TWA Captain John Whitney. He also mentioned local Remote Control Aircraft Builder Al Jones from the Rend Lake RC Club. Captain Whitney donated his 40 plus year old DC-3 aircraft last fall and Mr. Jones spent the winter restoring it. In late March, Mr. Jones and several members of the RLRC Club arrived and placed the aircraft on display inside the Koziara Terminal. The aircraft is a must see – especially at night with the Koziara Terminal lights off (the aircraft's landing, navigation, and rotating beacon lights are at full effect)!

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.