

# Airport hears update on projects

*The access road and utility update were among projects discussed*

**BY JOSH JONES**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

**MOUNT VERNON** — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard various updates on pending projects at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

Airport Director Chris Collins began by discussing the perimeter access road project. The project involves the rehabilitation of the interior perimeter service road by placing asphalt. The road is used for public access during the airport's annual Salute to Freedom.

"Hanson (Professional Services), the consulting engineering firm, has presented the 80% submission to IDOT (Illinois Department of

Transportation), which is on time to meet their project schedule so that project can be on the January letting (docket)," Collins said. "The road is going to be 16 feet wide and five-and-a-half inches thick, so we are getting five-and-a-half inches of new asphalt."

According to Sentinel archives, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$500,000 and comes with a local match of approximately \$18,000.

Also, the board approved a bid of \$62,800 from KT Electric of Mount Vernon for electric work for the Innovation Park Utility update.

"Ameren is going to relocate a transformer that is inside the fence



**Chris Collins**

and in the way of any future development, especially for hangar two," Collins said. "Since we built hangar one, Ameren has wanted that transformer relocated and we made a promise to Ameren we would do that before we put any new buildings there. With rising costs and everything, we felt it was prudent to go ahead and get that moved. Once that transformer is moved to the outside of the fence where Ameren wants it, then we are moving all the electrical infrastructure outside the fence and connecting it to the new transformer."

Collins said that they are currently waiting on materials before a start date of the project can be determined.

In addition, Collins said that Ameren connected electric for the temporary Air Evac Lifeteam medical base.

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"It may be mid-month (December) before they can go live, they are still trying to get a helicopter here," Collins said.

Collins said as for the permanent base, Round Table Design was collecting survey points around the new site and submitted the survey points to Hanson Professional Services to develop a site plan.

#### **IN OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The board approved a 24 month natural gas contract with Constellation Energy through Affordable Gas and Electric.

- The board recognized Tairu Zong for his time at the airport.

- The board approved a \$2,535 bid from Electronic Architects of Mount Vernon for updating its gate security system.

- Collins introduced Momentum 2026, which is their next capital development plan for future projects.

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Submitted Photo

**AIRPORT PROJECTS** — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority recently heard an update regarding various upcoming and pending projects. The interior access road project and the electric utility update were among the projects discussed.

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