

Preparations continue on airport projects

Some projects close to starting

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MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard updates regarding multiple projects at the airport.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that the perimeter access road project will be included on the Illinois Department of Transportation's letting for Jan. 21.

"So hopefully we will hear some news on (that following) Monday whether the projects come in under

ing lot and more. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million.

"The program letter officially serves as notice to proceed," Collins said.

Collins said that they hope for surveyors to come out and collect data points soon.

"We are just excited that we were selected for the Rebuild Illinois grant program," Collins said.

While an engineering agreement for the Innovation Park Hangar Two (Turbine Center) was tabled in December, due to cost concerns, Collins said that they received a revised agreement. According to Sentinel archives, the proposed total fee for the hangar and site was \$34,958, and the proposed total fee for the ramp was \$34,660.

"Hanson (Professional Services) came back with a new agreement that covers the architecture and the site engineering data necessary for us to submit the preliminary engineering analysis and that is going to be \$7,500," Collins said.

Collins said this project requires them receiving an Economic Development Assistance (EDA) grant. He said the EDA grant requires a preliminary engineering analysis, before approval is determined.

"If it is denied then there is a good chance we won't do the project, because we don't have the money to build another building without the funds," Collins said.

Please see **Airport**, Page 2A

budget/over budget," Collins said. "Normally they don't come in over budget."

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

Collins said in the rare circumstance that the project would come in over budget, oftentimes if the amount is 10% over budget the project is rebid.

"I don't expect that to happen, our engineers are really good," Collins said.

Collins said that last month the airport received the program letter for the Koziara Terminal parking lot project. The airport is set to receive \$918,000 in state funding (Rebuild Illinois) with a local match of



Chris Collins

\$102,000 to rehabilitate the Koziara Terminal parking lot, an entrance road and apron access points. The scope of work includes fixing all the curbs, feeder roads, crack fillings, remarking of Aviation and Firebaugh Drive, rehabilitating the entire park-

Airport:

Continued from Page 1A

Collins said that he is encouraging the board to reach out to local businesses who may be interested in relocating or having a location at the hangar.

"The more job creation we have inside that structure, the better chance we have for the EDA grant," Collins said.

Collins said that Air Evac Lifeteam staff is busy training in preparation of beginning operations inside the temporary base.

"The aircraft is not here at the moment," Collins said. "It is in their main maintenance area being readied to be delivered."

Collins said that the Air Evac Lifeteam permanent base project is in the preliminary design stage.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

- The board approved its annual agreement with USDA Wildlife Services for routine monitoring of the airport.

- The board approved a \$4,000 agreement with Kimley-Horn to publish additional information on the airport's tenants. Collins noted that this was a once-in-a-decade opportunity.

- The board approved covering an employee's prescription medicine after a switch in insurance, with plans to look over the insurance contract at the next renewal.

- The board approved a \$28,871 agreement with Guy Wood Insurance for general property coverage.

- The board approved an approximate \$2,300 agreement with Diamond Insurance for public official liability coverage.

- The airport recently purchased a fuel truck at approximately \$20,000.

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