

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held February 8th, 2022, at 6:00 PM

Present: Marty Cox	Chairman
Mike Ancona	Vice Chairman
Carey Lipps	Secretary
Greg Martin	Treasurer
Gary Chesney	Commissioner

Staff: Chris Collins  
Sheila Jolly-Scrivner

Guests: Dave Williams & Family, Steve Modert, Don Lewis, Ruth Ann Strawn, Mike & Carla Payne and a large number of Air Evac #11/#172 Personnel.

Mr. Collins recognized Dave Williams on his recent retirement from Air-Evac #11. He presented a Certificate that stated: *"The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority thanks you for nearly four decades of service to aviation in southern Illinois and the Air Evac Lifeteam Network. You were always there when someone needed a pilot, a mechanic, or a friend. We salute you!"* Mr. Collins, Commissioner Ancona, and others told stories about flying or working on aircraft with Mr. Williams. After the Certificate was presented and photos taken, Mr. Williams, his family, Mr. Collins, the Commissioners, and all guests relocated to the Banquet Room where several Air-Evac #11/#172 personnel were waiting. Once inside, Mr. Williams was presented with a personalized B407 Tail Rotor. Cake was served to all. After approximately ten minutes, Mr. Collins, the Commissioners, and some of the guests traveled back to the Board Room and the meeting was resumed.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mike Payne stated he appreciated the updated NOTAMS (Notices to Airman) generated by the airport during the recent winter weather activity.

Mr. Collins praised Fast Truck Repair and owner Steph Sabo. The airport's Jet A Mobile Fuel Truck broke down on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Collins called Steph and he came to the airport. An onsite diagnosis in the freezing temperatures lead to the truck being towed across Illinois Highway 15 to Fast's facilities. Steph's guys fixed the truck and Steph drove the truck back to the airport at 6:30 a.m. Sunday Morning. The airport did not miss a scheduled CAA Aircraft on Sunday Morning. Thank you Steph and Fast Truck Repair!

#### **REPORTS**

##### **Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the January 11th, 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 except Commissioner Martin 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 Meeting of the Greater Egypt Regional Economic Commission.

Mr. Collins referred the Commissioners to the front page of the booklet. The airport's Economic Impact Study Brochure prepared by Kimley-Horn appears ahead of the Agenda. Mr. Collins noted he is more than proud of the finished product and hopes the Commissioners are too! At the meeting, Mr. Collins explained the relationship with Kimley-Horn produced some additional work with FAA on the airport's behalf. Kimley-Horn had a conference call with FAA representatives in Washington, DC late last week. It was discovered KMVN will be in the Regional Classification beginning in 2023. 2021's numbers propelled the airport into the classification it should have been all along. The relationship with Kimley-Horn was definitely worth \$4000!

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Project/Grant Update:** Below is a snapshot of all projects:

*Rehabilitate Interior Perimeter Service Road Project* – Included in your booklet is the Bid Tabulation from IDOT, IDA. The lone bid was significantly under the Engineer's Estimate! IDOT noted it is certainly worthy of awarding and all involved look forward to seeing the process move forward.

*Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project (Sewer Portion)* – I submitted an e-mail to Cliff Lindemann on Wednesday last week (ahead of the ARPA Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday). The meeting was postponed due to weather. My e-mail basically stated the MVAA Board approved and executed a contract for engineering design, contract document administration, and resident engineer services. The airport hopes to bid the project as soon as possible and complete all work this summer.

*Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project (Electrical Portion)* – Kevin Turrentine, Brent Bartley, and I met recently. KT needs the location of the under road conduit I installed while the roadway was being constructed back in 2013. Once located, the project will be started. I did not get a chance to locate the conduit and with last week's weather being predicted many days early, all agreed to wait until this week. The thaw will definitely help me find the culvert. I have good photos that will aid in this effort. This conduit will carry the newly routed Ameren primary line to the relocated transformer.

*KT Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project* – No updates on this exciting project.

*Innovation Park Turbine Center (IP Hangar #2)* – Hopefully, Barry Stolz and Brian Edmison are working on the Preliminary Engineering Report required for the EDA Grant Application. In addition to Solera Bank, we now have two additional small businesses pledging to lease office space in the complex! I have two additional businesses I am chasing also. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

*Air Evac #172 Base (Temporary)* – After a last certification flight in the late morning/early afternoon, Air Evac #172 went live on Friday evening, February 4, 2022. Two patient flights occurred that night. We had to de-ice their ramp in order for them to safely move the EC-135 aircraft outside! They seemed pleased with everything so far.

*Air-Evac #172 Base (Permanent)* – Included in your booklet is Brian Edmison's project estimate. The estimate includes Hanson's site design costs and ramp/parking lot construction. Discussion ensued and the Commissioners expressed their excitement for the project as presented. Mr. Collins distributed a draft of the Agreement between Air Evac EMS and the MVAA developed by Legal Counsel Scott Quinn. Mr. Collins asked the Commissioners to review the Agreement and stated he and Mr. Edmison will be doing so also. Once the plans and Agreement are approved, he will submit all to Air Evac Corporate.

*Replace High Intensity Runway Lights on Primary Runway, Replace Medium Intensity Runway Lights on Crosswind Runway, and Replace Medium Intensity Taxiway Lights on all Taxiways.* - No news on this project. Preliminary design plans are still underway at Hanson.

**Mobile Fuel Truck:**

Matt Colvin drove the recently acquired Ford F-450 to American Refueler in Birmingham, Alabama during the last week in January. American Refueler is pleased with the truck and indicates it will work great (that company is having difficulty finding suitable truck/chassis too). Mr. Collins presented American Refueler's Quotation to install brand new 100LL fueling components on the truck. The \$82,592 quotation is nearly \$18,000 more than what Mr. Collins thought would be quoted but the truck does include a 1000 gallon stainless steel tank instead of 750 previously quoted. He mentioned waiting another six months could result in the price being in excess of \$100,000. Mr. Collins stated when he looked at this purchase in early 2021; he obtained quotes from two additional companies. No one was cheaper than American Refueler. Therefore, he recommended approval of American Refueler's Quotation of \$82,592. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the purchase of a new 100LL Mobile Fueler as presented by American Refueler. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Annual Audit:**

Since auditor David Kieffer was not in attendance, this item was tabled until next month.

### **Aviation Report:**

Mr. Collins presented the Annual Aviation Report for calendar year 2021. 2021 was a very good year. In terms of operations, there were really no huge airplanes or circumstances - just consistent operations. There were 26,696 total operations (up 8.7% over 2020) for 2021. Mr. Collins noted several factors for the good numbers: the CAA program, the airport's domestic flight school, Air Evac, Kash, SRT Maintenance operations (including many St. Louis based C177 Cardinal and SIUC aircraft) an incredible number of restaurant fly-in customers, and a busy Midwest LSA Expo. The other takeaways were 150 CAA Operations and strong Jet statistics. For the Based Inventory Report, there are 34 SEL (single engine land), 5 MEL (multi engine land), 1 Jet, and 6 HELO (Helicopters) totaling 46 aircraft based at KMVN. The based HondaJet is a huge addition as this helps the airport qualify for Regional Classification. Mr. Collins stated the aircraft logged 34 operations in 2021, but has already logged 18 operations in January, 2022! Mr. Collins mentioned the two Piper PA46T Turboprops listed in the Based Inventory Report. Both burn jet fuel and will bolster the instrument approach metrics. The airport also has three Cirrus SR-22's registered! Mr. Collins said the airport most likely experienced its best January on record. There were 38 jet operations (six large jets), the airport's 1<sup>st</sup> collegiate sport's charter (University of Northern Iowa), and eight Air Cargo Operations!

### **Insurance**

Mr. Collins noted the renewal premium for the airport's Workmen's Compensation Insurance Policy is \$12,485. The expiring was \$13,079. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Chesney to approve the renewal as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Collins mentioned a new insurance policy that will soon become a reality. He noted the General Liability Insurance Underwriter is not comfortable with an airport employee conducting flight instruction. Mr. Collins stated the situation was not a problem last year but seems to be a red flag now. Since Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton is on the airport payroll and the airport collects the fees, the underwriter sees this as the airport operating the flight school. Two choices were offered – Mr. Grafton becomes an employee of SRT Aviation or a new policy be created to cover Mr. Grafton and the airport. Since the SRT option is not possible and the airport will most likely be purchasing an airplane very soon, the new policy is the only path forward. Mr. Collins told the Commissioners to expect a new \$5000 premium at next month's meeting.

### **Maintenance Truck:**

Mr. Collins presented an invoice for the Maintenance Superintendent's new Ford F-150 Truck. Since all Commissioners approved this in an individual telephone vote, Mr. Collins asked for official approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Ancona and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the \$40,970 invoice from Morrow

Brothers Ford in Greenfield, Illinois. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor. Mr. Collins stated he wished the airport could have done a Ford Square deal like was done with his company truck. With supply and labor issues, the local dealer could not obtain a truck nor get within 10% of the State of Illinois Contract Program price at Morrow Brothers. Mr. Collins also stated that waiting another three to six months would likely see this truck's cost exceed \$50,000!

**Flight School:**

Mr. Collins mentioned Eric Evans of Eric Evans Aviation is working a great deal close to home on a Cessna 172 "Skyhawk" aircraft. The aircraft is within the airport's budget of \$100,000 or less. Although the airport is not ready to put down a deposit yet, Mr. Collins needs official Board approval to purchase the used "Skyhawk". The bank requires Meeting Minutes to set up the financing. Once a deal is structured, the bank will finance 80% of the cost. Discussion ensued about Cessna "Skyhawks", the existing "Skyhawk" N24153, the current flight students, local pilots, Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton, and future flight students. All were in agreement that things are working smoothly and new students are calling weekly. A second aircraft is badly needed to keep the positive momentum. Motion was made by Commissioner Ancona and seconded by Commissioner Chesney to approve a \$100,000 purchase price for a used Cessna 172 "Skyhawk". Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS.**

There being no items from Executive Session, 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.