

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners
Held November 9th, 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: Steve Modert, Don Lewis, Ron Brushwitz, Eric Evans, Brandon Schnitker, Mike Quagliano, Tairu Zong, Kings, Ruth Ann Strawn, and Mike & Carla Payne

PUBLIC INPUT

Hearing none, Chairman Cox moved forward with the Agenda.

REPORTS

Minutes

Minutes were presented for the October 12th, 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 October Meeting of the Greater Egypt Regional Economic Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Project/Grant Updates

Mr. Collins provided an update on current project/grant status:

Rehabilitate Interior Perimeter Service Road Project – Hanson recently met IDOT's 80% Plans Submittal Date. IDOT mandates certain dates be met so that projects can be managed/reviewed and advertised for maximum participation. Based on conversations at the TIP Meeting, both IDOT and Hanson expect the project on IDOT's January Letting.

Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project (Sewer Portion) – I attended the Jefferson County Board’s Full Board Meeting on Monday, October 25th. Upon recommendation from the County Board’s ARPA Committee, our project was approved on a 9-1 vote. There was some discussion about taxing districts giving funds to other taxing districts. This was introduced by one person during public comment and reinforced by the dissenting member during the various discussions. I did my best to counter this concern. Included in your booklet is meeting coverage from the Sentinel. I have reached out to Hanson about moving things forward (design, preparing bid documents, etc). I plan to speak to Chairman Lindemann in the next week or so about the mechanics on the County’s side.

Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project (Electrical Portion) – KT Electric is awaiting the components needed to begin the project. I expect things to begin moving in December or January. With the bidding and approval processes occurring between meetings, and me forgetting to ask for formal approval of KT Electric’s bid at last month’s meeting, I recommend we do so. Therefore, I recommend approval of KT Electric’s \$62,800 bid. Motion was made by Commissioner Lipps and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the bid as recommended. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

KT Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project – During the TIP Meeting in October, IDOT revealed the project is included in the soon to be announced Rebuild Illinois Program. The Governor is expected to make an announcement later this month. I am told it will be during the third week. As soon as a Program Letter is in hand, I will instruct Hanson to initiate their design work.

Innovation Park Turbine Center (IP Hangar #2) – Since Mike Quagliano and Brandon Schnitker of Solera Aviation are in attendance, I recommend we discuss this line item in Other Business.

GMR IFR Base (Temporary) – Ameren connected their service to the modular structure early last week. Clearwave Communications bored their lines on Friday (see the photo page in the booklet displaying the splice cans throughout Innovation Park). Clearwave connected to IP Hangar #1 on Monday. Without an operable aircraft on site, Air Evac #172 Jefferson County will probably not go live until mid-December at best.

GMR IFR Base (Permanent) – Round Table Design surveyed the site late last week. Round Table will submit the elevations to Hanson so that Hanson can begin design of the site plan. The next step is to solidify the architect (Air Evac’s preferred architect or the airport’s architect). I also need to obtain a copy of the most current Lease Agreement Air Evac used on their most recent IFR Base (as promised by Air Evac). We will use this document as a template to structure our local Lease Agreement.

T Hangar A-900 Rehabilitation Project - I still have no estimates from Powerlift Doors. I think this is mostly due to that company being embarrassed to send estimates due to the increased cost of steel. I believe I will just delay further discussion of this project until late winter/early spring and hope for lower costs by then. Unless needs change, I plan on including the project in the Momentum 2026 Capital Development Plan.

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. - Preliminary design plans are underway at Hanson.

Scrub Land to Farm Land (Tract #33) – Matt Colvin assisted farmers Alan and Lori Bowers late last week by disking the western portion of the tract. Matt plans to lease a dozer later this month and complete the reshaping of the former pond area on the eastern portion. Once completed and disked, the tract will be ready for farming in the Spring!

NEW BUSINESS

Natural Gas Contract: As discussed individually just after the October Meeting, Mr. Collins noted a new 24 month contract with Constellation Energy (Affordable Gas and Electric) needs to be formally approved. The new rate locks the airport in at \$0.558 per Therm regardless of the forecasted market increases. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Lipps to approve a 24 month contract with Constellation Energy/AGE as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

IP Gate Reader System: Mr. Collins presented three bids for a touch screen keypad entry system at the Innovation Park/Maintenance Gate on Tuesday Night. He reasoned that with the increased traffic load at that gate due to Air Evac (employees, delivery drivers, etc), it is vitally important the airport have a simple but powerful system at that gate. The system must be able to be easily re-programmed via computer and log all entries (date, time, etc). Of upmost importance is having a record of all entries due to the fuel farm inside that area. The lowest bid was submitted by local firm Electronic Architechs at \$2535. Security Alarm from Salem submitted the second lowest bid at \$2680. The third bid was submitted by Barcom of Belleville at \$6913. With the bids being “apples to apples”, Mr. Collins recommended the approval of the low bid submitted by Electronic Architechs. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Lipps to approve the \$2535 bid from Electronic Architechs. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Momentum 2026: Mr. Collins explained it is time to start the process of the next Capital Development Plan – Momentum 2026. Since the airport is on a three year cycle, and Momentum 2023 was launched in the Spring of 2019, Spring 2022 will be here before we know it. Sticking to the schedule maintains a consistent tax levy. Mr. Collins noted the future progression is this: begin the discussion at the February Meeting, invite Bond Sales Brokers to the next few meetings, pick a broker at the March Meeting, conduct the Public Hearing in April, and Bond Sale Resolution in May. A big decision will need to be made early next year – does the Momentum 2026 Bond and Interest Levy exceed the 1996 PTEL Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB) of \$205,900? At the beginning of the Momentum 2023 process, the DSEB had been increased by legislative action to \$230,000. A Bond and Interest Levy increase above \$211,000 would signal a participation in the “expected” EAV Increase/Capture process. Because of the airport’s “frozen” 1996 DSEB approach, the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority is the only local taxing body showing no tax increase on property tax bills year after year! Mr. Collins stated there is ample time to discuss staying put at \$205,900, increase the levy slightly, or increase to the new full DSEB allowed by legislation. Mr. Collins provided a tentative listing of the proposed projects for Momentum 2026. The projects are a mix of local needs and State/Federal/Local initiatives from the airport’s Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Collins mentioned the airport still has a sizeable amount of funds leftover from the Momentum 2023 Plan. This was due to not completing the “T” Hangar Project (IDOT’s reversing approval on the site). The airport has simply shifted the funds to other projects and intends to continue doing so until those funds are expended. Mr. Collins titles these projects “Wind Down” Projects. Examples are: Local Share for State/Federal Perimeter Access Road Project, Ameren Transformer Relocation at Innovation Park, Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project, Innovation Park Lift Station Upgrades, Innovation Park Gate Access Project, and Taxiway “A” Fillet Project. A separate listing titled “Wind Down” Projects was also presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Collins concluded by stating that although everything regarding Momentum 2026 is in its infancy, the airport will need to decide what project or projects get funded after the State/Federal and Priority Projects are addressed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Mike Quagliano and Mr. Brandon Schnitker of Solera Aviation. The pair operate the HondaJet currently housed in the Community Hangar. Mr. Collins noted Solera Aviation is intended to be the major tenant in Innovation Park Hangar #2 (IP Turbine Center). Mr. Schnitker is a young local aviator that will soon be graduating from SIUC. Mr. Quagliano noted that he is originally from the central part of the state but currently resides near Georgetown, Kentucky. The pair met Mr. Collins over a year ago and have developed a fondness for Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Quagliano and Schnitker want to help the airport grow by opening/creating aviation and non-aviation businesses located at the airport. Long term financing for capital development projects may also be available via the pair’s bank – Solera Bank. Discussion ensued regarding Solera Bank, Innovation Park Turbine Center, flight training, and upgrades to the airport fuel farm. Although a very positive exchange took place, no decisions were made.

Mr. Collins and Mrs. Jolly-Scrivner invited everyone in the room to the All Airport Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Koziara Terminal Lobby. The party will follow the usual format.

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.

