

Airport perimeter road project nears completion

Change order required for electric utility project

BY JOSH JONES

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MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Outland Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard various updates regarding ongoing projects at Mount Vernon Outland Airport.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that the perimeter access road rehabilitation project was delayed due to bad weather at the end of July.

"The paving is done, they are bringing riprap rock, there is a culvert underneath the road where the inlets are, they are placing the larger rock in today (Friday) and then they have shoulder work to do when that is done," Collins said. "Then the project will be complete."

According to Sentinel archives, the perimeter road project involves the rehabilitation of the interior perimeter service road by placing asphalt. The road was paved and is 16 foot wide and eight inches thick. Southern Illinois Asphalt is the company that was awarded the bid for the project. The local cost of the project is \$18,011.56, the federal

share is \$403,102.33 and the state share was \$18,011.56 for a total project cost of \$439,125.45.

Collins said the Airport Authority thought the work done on the perimeter access road project was "fantastic."

"It is kind of going to propel us forward into the future with the expansion of the Innovation Park quadrant," Collins said. "And it makes things safer, that is the main goal is the safety of the people that are going back and forth, airport operators, construction workers, FAA tech ops and air rescue firefighter crews."

Collins said the work regarding the Innovation Park electric util-

ity update had a slight change after a discovery was made by Commissioner Gary Chesney. Collins said Chesney noticed that there was a step-up transformer inside the airport's maintenance building and quickly found out that the old lift station pumps require 240 volts.

"Ameren supplies 208 (volts) to the airport. That was not in the original specifications, so we knew at the kick off of the project we would have to do something about that at the end of the project," Collins said.

Sentinel archives state that the airport accepted a bid of \$62,800 regarding the relocation of a transformer that is inside the fence and in the way of future development.

Collins said that the board approved a change order of \$3,156 plus freight and labor from Springfield Electric for a step-up transformer.

"That will be installed outside at the lift station to increase the voltage up to 240 volts, that is the only change order on that project," Collins said.

Collins said he has continued to be in contact with Air Evac Life-team regarding the finalization of the permanent base. He said that Air Evac's outside legal review had concerns regarding an environmental study and the airport has provided various options.

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"We had what is termed an environmental assessment categorical exclusion approved by IDOT and FAA for the site," Collins said. "Our consultant

Hanson (Professional Services) has given us a couple of different options if they remain uncomfortable with the site.



Chris Collins

The first thing would be an Endpoint Detection and Response Report, that one is about \$500. Completion of a Record Search with Risk Assessment that is \$1,000 or a full blown phase one environmental site assessment, \$6,000."

Collins said Friday morning that he was meeting with Air Evac Friday afternoon to discuss the agreement in further detail.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

- Collins said he is proud

to announce for the eighth consecutive year the board has frozen its property tax levy at \$123,128.

- The board approved the 2022/2023 prevailing wage ordinance.

- The Bonnie Cafe is prepared for the installation of the new cooler/freezer. Collins said that the installation of the new units is expected to be complete by mid week.

- The board approved the purchase of a 75-inch flat screen smart TV and system for \$1,794 from Megabytes out of Herrin. This will be used to advertise events, solo flights and more at the airport.

- The Midwest LSA Expo will be held Sept. 8, 9 and 10 at the airport. This marks the 14th year for the event and volunteers are needed.

- The board held a public hearing on the 2022-2023 airport budget prior to the regular meeting.

- The United States Air Force Concert Band sent a letter of appreciation to the airport in response to them performing during the annual Salute to Freedom program.

- In July, the airport saw 19 visits from Corporate Aircraft Association aircraft and the airport sold 5,330 gallons

of fuel to those airplanes alone. Collins said that the airport would not have made those sales if it wasn't for the CAA program.

- Aviation Programs Director/Flight Instructor Jay Grafton flew 75 hours in July. Collins said that was a record and was at 109% of Grafton's salary.

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