

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held July 12th, 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  
Matt Colvin

Guests: Steve Willis, Don Lewis, Mike & Carla Payne, Steve Modert, and Ken Kline.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mike and Carla Payne commented on the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet held in Champaign on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was well represented at the banquet as EAA Chapter 1155 received the Spirit of Flight Award. Several of the Commissioners thanked and congratulated Steve Willis for his service and his induction into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the June 14th, 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**

Hearing none, Chairman Cox moved forward with the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Project/Grant Update:** Below is a snapshot of all projects as specified by Mr. Collins:

*Rehabilitate Interior Perimeter Service Road Project* – A Pre-Construction Meeting was held on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Southern Illinois Asphalt intends to

start the project on July 18<sup>th</sup>. There are 29 Calendar Days assigned but all involved do not believe it will take that long to complete. Excavation/replacement of the culvert at the far south end will occur first. This work is subcontracted to Sierra Bravo from Sesser. Next will be the grading, milling, and elevation prep work (including base material additions). Concrete sign bases and red “Aircraft Operations Area” Signs will be installed on the interior sides at the appropriate distances. Actual paving should occur sometime near the beginning of August.

*Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project (Sewer Portion)* – Not much to report on this project this month. John Trotter was in one day last week and delivered the signed contract. He noted the materials are ordered and should be available by mid September. He should be able to start later that month or sometime in October. I intend to deliver the first bill to the County next week. The bill is for Hanson’s engineering work.

*Innovation Park Utility Upgrade Project (Electrical Portion)* – Due to the heat, busy schedules, and other factors; the project still lacks the final steps to completion. This is switching the power on Innovation Park Hangar #1 from the old transformer to the new and removing the old transformer. The largest piece of the puzzle has been found – a suitable generator to open/close the hangar door. I observed Matt using Air-Evac #11’s mobile emergency generator to open the door during a recent Ameren storm outage! With the magic silver bullet on the property, the outage is scheduled for this Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

*KT Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project* – There are no new updates on this project.

*Innovation Park Turbine Center (IP Hangar #2)* – There are no new updates on this project.

*Air-Evac #172 Base (Permanent)* – On July 1<sup>st</sup>, I submitted an e-mail to Air Evac Facilities Coordinator Jamie Roberts. I was as nice as I could be about the airport’s position. Jamie’s reply is included in your booklet. He mentions the Agreement has been reviewed by their legal counsel. It has been submitted for an outside legal review. I will stay on top of things with e-mails and phone calls from this point on.

*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 bids were received on the June letting. Hanson did some digging as to why no bids were submitted and discovered two big reasons. First, contractors did not feel there were enough calendar days in the specification to complete the work. Second, some of the most historically qualified contractors were disqualified due to their bonding limit being exceeded (having too much existing work). Hanson plans to modify the specification with an extension of the calendar days and speak to IDOT, Aeronautics about the bonding limits. The project(s) will be rebid on the August 5<sup>th</sup> letting.

*Taxiway A Fillets* – Jim McPhail from Southern Illinois Asphalt looked at the project after the Pre-Construction Meeting. He plans to submit an estimate for work to be completed at the tail end of the Perimeter Access Road Project. The timing of any potential work opportunity by southern Illinois Asphalt will be close to the August meeting (8/9/22). If needed sooner, I may do an individual telephone poll vote. If pricing and circumstances favor Jax Asphalt, I would recommend that company complete the work during the Innovation Park Utility Upgrade (Sewer Portion) Project.

*Koziara Terminal Restaurant Cooler/Freezer Project* – The new unit was delivered during the week of June 20, 2022 – to the wrong location! It is now on its way back to the manufacturer for inspection prior to delivery to us. Expected delivery date is sometime late-July. In the meantime, we are supplying diesel fuel for a 53' trailer unit provided to Bonnie Café by US Foods. Our two outside units failed during the first June heatwave. Larry Hodges and Bryan Johnston both expressed “I have done all I can do”. The last time I did the math, the reefer unit is burning approximately 8 gallons per day.

#### **Air Race Classic and Salute to Freedom:**

Mr. Collins stated, *“The significance of these two events deserved a mention on the Agenda”*. He displayed an Air Race Classic “Best Stop” Plaque and directed the Commissioners to media coverage of that achievement included in their booklets. He noted it was a fun couple of days playing host to the racers. He explained his ARC contact from Oshkosh was part of Race #4. As he welcomed her planeside (mid race) she was already aware of the good news surrounding the KMVN stop and she recommended the airport make application for a future race terminus. The 2023 course is already chosen so he plans to apply for 2024 and beyond. As for the Salute to Freedom, he directed the Commissioners to photo pages in the booklets related to the United States Air Force Band. Mr. Collins emphasized this was the official USAF Band from Washington DC – not one of the 12 USAF bands from one of the USAF bases such as Scott AFB. He stated – *“this was the largest stage and production ever assembled in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. Those watching/listening from the lake shore heard perfect sound from some very talented musicians. Mayor Lewis spoke for a few minutes at mid-performance and delivered a “Reagan type” speech. From arrival through set up, performance, teardown, to departure – everything was first class. Bonnie Café (at its expense) prepared and served dinner to the musicians/singers. The Colonel/Conductor spoke during dinner and stated “this was the nicest and best meal they have gotten during the tour”*. *Some of the musicians told me personally they normally are on their own such as finding a fast food restaurant near the hotel after the performance.”* Mr. Collins displayed a plaque presented by the USAF Band. Tourism Director Angela Schrum also received a plaque.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Insurance**

Mr. Collins presented the 2022 Health Insurance Package for approval. For \$2.19 more per month/per employee, Ms. Sheila Jolly-Scrivner found a better plan and obtained

Dental and Vision coverage! Total cost per employee is \$856.85 per month. The new plan should address the shortcomings of the 2021 plan. The \$174 per month the airport is currently paying Matt Colvin to shore up his medical needs should not be necessary. Motion was made by Commissioner Lipps and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the 2022 renewal as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS.**

Mr. Collins mentioned the immediate need for a replacement ground maintenance vehicle. The ground maintenance vehicle is mostly used to spray weed killer but is also used during events. The current vehicle is a southeast Asia mini-truck – the “Mini”. The “Mini” was severely damaged recently in an accident with a utility pole. Although the damage can be most likely be repaired, the “Mini” is out of commission until repairs can be attempted in the winter months. Therefore, Mr. Collins asked for emergency approval to purchase a replacement ground maintenance vehicle. Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin was in attendance and stated he has shopped the quad state region for used and new “Side by Sides” (Polaris, Can-Am, Kawasaki, etc). Mr. Covin presented some very limited options as new inventories are severely depleted. Option #1 is a used Polaris Ranger unit owned by an airport neighbor on old Fairfield Road. Option #1 is a 2014 model year and has 7500 miles on its odometer. Asking price for Option #1 is \$12,500. Option #2 is the only new unit available in the quad state area. It is also a Polaris Ranger and is available for approximately \$20,169. Discussion ensued about the existing “Mini”, used vs new, and the funding. A majority of the Commissioners favored purchasing new so the direction proceeded accordingly. During the discussion, Commissioner Lipps found a like new Polaris Ranger in Morton, Illinois via an online source for approximately \$17,000. Mr. Colvin expressed he would personally call the Morton, IL seller in the morning, and if satisfactory, could travel to pick it up tomorrow. Discussion again ensued. Mr. Collins asked if approval could be granted for the worst case scenario - \$21,000 with the hope of a \$17,000 purchase. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Ancona to approve the plan. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

With Personal Property Replacement Taxes (PPRT) still exceeding historical levels, Mr. Collins asked permission to transfer funds from General Operating to Flightline Aero Services to pay down the loan on the new C172. He reminded the Commissioners of their approval several months ago of a similar plan involving grant funds. Since the grant funds are yet to be received and the PPRT income is excessive, he would like to transfer \$30,000 per PPRT payment (\$15,000 per month) to Flightline Aero with the funds included in the monthly payment to the bank under “additional principal”. The PPRT Payment would have to be in excess of \$50,000. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Chesney to approve the plan as presented by Mr. Collins.

Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton billed 74.3 hours, or 107% of his salary, in June. To date in July, he has billed 25 hours. As for the new C172, thirteen different pilots flew a total of 29.5 hours in the first full month.

There being no items from Executive Session, no additional Other Business items, and no extra 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.