

# Airport eyes lift station measure

*This would temporarily resolve the issue*

**BY JOSH JONES**  
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

**MOUNT VERNON** — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners is exploring its options after a recent lift station failure threatened the airport's sewer system last month.

According to Airport Director Chris Collins, in mid-January the airport was made aware of a failure in the riser pipe, which comes out of the pump chamber of the lift station, which is located 35 feet below ground.

"This failure was in the riser pipe, but luckily for us it was only about two feet below the elbow so about eight feet below depth," Collins said.

Even with the advantageous position during this instance, Collins explained that each time there is a failure it is costing the airport between \$4,000 to \$6,000. A previous failure occurred in the horizontal pipe of the system.

"We are very concerned about a failure at greater depths in that riser pipe," Collins said. "This is such a vital component and if it goes down it is the sewage for the entire facility."

Collins said that the airport has been working with JK Trotter & Sons as he discussed their proposal.

"This is a proposal from Trotter to put a submersible pump down in the wet well, where all the sewage accumulates until the pumps kick on and then pumps it out of the wet well up



**Chris Collins**

## Airport:

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through the riser pipe and then across the airfield into the city's system," Collins said.

Collins said that JK Trotter & Sons would cut a hole into the top of the wet well, install new piping and have it connect into the new piping that was recently installed through the American Rescue Plan Act project.

"It essentially creates a bypass around that old pump chamber that is 35 feet down," Collins said.

Collins said the airport is in the process of looking over its options before they release any estimates. He said that this is not an issue that would ever shut down the airport.

"This has never happened before," Collins said. "It would never shut us down because we would put a submersible pump in the wet well, it would be no different than someone who had a flooded basement and they used a sump-pump and they are running the water or sewage out of the flexible piping. ... It is not a perfect situation, but it would keep us up and running and you certainly wouldn't want to do that in the winter time."

Collins said that this would buy the airport some time and they hope to have the project done in the coming weeks.

"It is not a subject that will go away with this fix, but this would buy us five years maybe longer than that to figure out what we are going to do with the existing pump chamber," Collins said.

### IN OTHER BUSINESS

• The airport is looking at



Sentinel File Photo

**LIFT STATION** — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners is exploring its options after a recent lift station failure threatened the airport's sewer system last month.

options for an addition to its Fixed Based Operations building.

• The board heard the annual Aviation Report.

• The board recognized Veteran Duane Sink with a certificate of appreciation for his dedication to aviation and the airport by letting others use his aircraft for light sport aircraft training.

• A pre-design meeting is planned for the Koziara Terminal parking lot project.

• Air Evac signed the agreement in January and the permanent base construction is moving forward with bidding documents to be finished in the coming weeks. Ground is expected to be broken in four to six weeks.

• Air Evac 172 celebrated their one year anniversary at the airport.

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