

Airport eyes FBO building addition

The addition would serve as a new welcoming area to visiting pilots

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners gave a consensus for the airport to pursue an addition to its Fixed Based Operations (FBO) building during its February meeting.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that with increased clientele coming through Mount Vernon Outland Airport over the recent years, they have noticed a need for an update.

"For many years, we have noticed that the front door to Southern Illinois over there is in need of some upgrading," Collins said. "What

I mean by that is imagine that you just landed here for whatever reason whether that is fuel, food, or you are having a meeting downtown or in a neighboring community, the first impression is not very good, it is very aged and it is in drastic need of an update."

Collins went into further details on the current state of the FBO entrance.

"The current vestibule that comes into the Fixed Based Operations building was probably built in the '70s, it has outdated paneling, the doors swing in the wrong direction and where customers enter the building they see the sales counter from the area where the employee entrance is i.e. there is a cutaway and the view is into the kitchenette area and it just needs updated," Collins said.

Please see **Airport**, Page 2A

Airport:

Continued from Page 1A

Collins said that Architect Brian Edmison presented a design to the board for the area.

"This new addition to the FBO building ... basically extends out from the existing building 32 feet and it is 26 feet wide," Collins said. "It includes a new entry area that leads directly into a bathroom or you make a right turn and go into the lounge and the lounge area has large windows so the visitors can look out onto the flight line, it designs the entry into the existing area, shifts to the west to where the visitor now sees the sales counter in the correct way. ... It makes the sight line much more professional."



Chris Collins

Collins said that this design would allow visitors to have 24-hour keyed access to a bathroom. Cost estimates were not available.

"This is one of those situations where you just have to put it out for bid and see what happens," Collins said.

According to Collins, the board had a major discussion on why the addition was needed. Board Chairman Marty Cox said that for many entrants this area is their first impression of Mount Vernon.

"There are no second chances for first impressions," Cox said.

Collins said that ultimately everyone agreed to move forward with the project and go out for bids. He said that the plan is to present the final plans at the March meeting.

"We would like to have the project completed ahead of our Midwest LSA Expo in September, when the industry comes here," Collins said. "It is just a project that needs to be completed."

jjones@morningsentinel.com

2/22/23



Submitted Photo

FBO ADDITION — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners gave a consensus for the airport to pursue an addition to its Fixed Based Operations (FBO) building during its February meeting.