

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held February 14th, 2023 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 Willis, Steve Modert, Don Lewis, Duane Sink, Richard Irvin, and Brian Edmison.

### PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Collins presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Duane Sink. Mr. Collins explained Duane recently sold his two Aeroprakt aircraft to Richie and Lisa Irvin. The Irvin's will continue to operate the aircraft in the flight school with all agreements and parameters as Duane. Mr. Collins stated *"I don't think anyone in the last 50 years has purchased two brand new aircraft and made them easily available for people to learn to fly and/or lease! Duane and his contribution are certainly worthy of our thanks and appreciation."*

Mr. Collins showed a new Power Point Presentation he created for the most recent Jefferson County Development Meeting. The presentation is more statistics related and includes recent information published by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics. As revealed by the 2022 Illinois Aviation System Plan, KMVN is in the Top 25! The airport ranked #22 out of 75 Illinois public use airports for total economic output and #24 out of 75 Illinois public use airports for total jobs. Mr. Collins concluded *"KMVN is by far the smallest market in the Top 25."*

### OLD BUSINESS

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

*KT Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project* – Over the weekend I received an e-mail invitation listing several available dates in February and March. On Monday, I will schedule a meeting date.

*Air-Evac Lifeteam Joint Base Jefferson* – The Agreement was signed by Air Evac on January 31, 2023! Brian Edmison was in attendance and indicated the bid package is nearly finished and should be advertised for bid next week. Bid solicitation to award, should take six weeks.

*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.* - Hanson has been very busy working with IDOT to get this project ready for bidding. With the continued increase in material costs coupled with the previous bids being far in excess of engineer's estimates, the new engineer's estimates have been adjusted accordingly. This translates to our local share doubling (\$98,000 to \$200,000). Barry Stolz called to provide this information and asked for permission to proceed late last week. I approved due to the project needing to be completed (FAA Inspection, component age, utility bills, etc). Plans were then submitted by Hanson in accordance with IDOT, IDA requirements. There is no guarantee that the FAA will fund the project due to the increased costs but expectations are high that it will due to the project being skipped last year and a higher priority given this year. Let's hope bidders will participate.

*Hangar A-1400* – I must state I have slowed on this one slightly as I work with the local aviators to “nail down” what it is they will be doing. One partner appears solid with his plans while the other is more difficult to define. I would like another month or two to refine the project and partnership.

**IP Lift Station:** Mr. Collins stated that shortly after last month's meeting, another massive leak was detected in the Innovation Park Lift Station. J.K. Trotter and Sons visited again and made another repair – this time to the vertical “Riser” pipe just below the upper elbow. It is this “Riser” that is most concerning as it extends approximately 25 feet down to the pump chamber. If a deeper leak were to occur, accessing the pipe at depths more than 15 feet would be a significant risk and significant cost. Mr. Collins presented, what he called “an intermediate solution” to the current problem. J.K. Trotter and Sons would install a submersible pump in the current wet well, cut and place a new horizontal pipe in the wet well, install new bypass piping from the wet well piping into the existing bypass valve (installed during last summer's project). The not to exceed \$50,000 estimate includes electrical equipment and installation to make everything operable. The goal would be to have both systems operable or switch between one or the other. Mr. Collins noted the project is expensive, but would provide some peace of mind. Discussion ensued with the Commissioners desiring to proceed but concerned there may be local contractors that may/could present an alternative solution. With no time for and engineering specification/bidding, a consensus was reached to call Rend Lake Plumbing to determine if that company would be interested in providing a competitive plan and cost. Mr. Collins agreed to contact Rend Lake Plumbing on Wednesday morning. If no interest is shown, or an alternative plan is more costly, Mr. Collins recommended approval of the plan submitted by J.K. Trotter and Sons. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Ancona to approve the plan and cost submitted by J.K. Trotter and Sons after contact with Rend Lake Plumbing.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Insurance.** Mr. Collins explained the Work Comp Policy renewed on February 4th. He and Mrs. Scrivner followed the advice of agent Heather Ross at Arthur J. Gallagher, and

approved a policy from Beacon at \$9029. The expiring premium was \$12,485 so that is good news regarding Work Comp. Mr. Collins went on to state the Airport General Liability Policy renews on February 17<sup>th</sup>. As was done with the Work Comp Policy, Mr. Collins and Mrs. Scrivner accepted Heather's advice and approved the bid with Starr at \$7615. The expiring premium was \$7287. Mr. Collins recommend official approval of both these policies. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Ancona to approve the renewals as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

**Annual Aviation Report.** Mr. Collins presented the report detailing the annual aircraft operations and the based tenancy. 2022 was a record year in terms of total operations, jet operations, and CAA stops. There were 28,845 total operations – the most in Mr. Collins' tenure. Credit goes to many places: local and itinerant flight training, Air Evac, aviation events such as MLSA Expo and the Air Race Classic, restaurant traffic, CAA, and many other factors related to Team MVN. The 360 jet operations were 52 more than the previous record set in 2011 (the year of the land speculation ahead of possible fracking). Mr. Collins' only explanation for such an increase at this time is the CAA Program. The 256 CAA stops were solidly ahead of the 2021 number (150). The airport's first year in the program was only five months but still produced 88 operations. Another notable with the 2022 report was the return of cargo activity. Mr. Collins would not say 40 operations was a record, but it is the most cargo activity the airport has had in six years. As for based tenancy, the airport lost a few but gained a few ending at 45 aircraft. This number is down one since 2021. With increased flight training, new certifications should lead to more based aircraft.

**FBO Entry Project.** Mr. Collins showed a photo of the current entry into SRT Aviation. The airport's "Front Door" to southern Illinois needs a facelift! The current 1970's vestibule includes interior paneling, cracked glass panels, deteriorated indoor/outdoor carpet, and doors that swing in opposite directions. Once inside, visitors see the employee entry to the sales counter all way through into the kitchen area. Mr. Collins asked Brian Edmison to come up with some ideas to update the entry. Brian presented a first draft that included a medium size addition (approximately 26' x 32') that will encompass a new vestibule, new doorway system (shifted West to the current window area), and 24/7 bathroom. The bathroom will be keyed access and address an issue that has plagued the airport for decades. Brian's cost estimate was shocking but based on projects underway around the City. Discussion ensued about the project, the costs, and the timing but everyone agreed to move forward with a design. Motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Ancona to allow Brian Edmison to move forward with a design and obtain bids. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor. Chairman Cox concluded by stating "*There are no second chances for first impressions!*"

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs. Scrivner directed the Commissioners to the correspondence in their booklet from Fairfield National Bank. The loan on Cessna C172 N737CZ is paid in full – just shy of one year!

Mr. Collins explained that 103,500 gallons of aviation fuel has been sold as of January 31, 2023. The next plateau will be to exceed the record of 117,060 gallons set in 2011/2012.

Mr. Collins noted Mike Laurent from Sparta is the 2022 Bonnie Aviators Club Grand Prize Winner. Mike's card was pulled from 55 cards – representing 275 visits to the restaurant via aircraft. The sad part is the total could be higher as many pilots are missed. Either they are not aware of the program and/or the servers do not see them enter from the flightline. Mr. Collins explained he has a few ideas to correct these “misses”.

Mr. Collins presented a cost estimate from T. Ham Signs to replace the aged and damaged panels on the Jefferson County Heroes Memorial. Total cost for five new panels is \$2155. Funds have been collected from various veterans groups and other donors over the years. The Commissioners approved the request.

Mrs. Scrivner stated Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton billed 33.65 hours (or 49% of his salary) in January. To date for February, Jay has billed 29.8 hours. N737CZ flew 20.6 hours in January.

Mr. Collins explained Ms. Jana Filip (former Sebring Expo and Deland Sport Aviation Showcase Director) and Mr. Art Tarola (Evektor Importer) will visit the airport this weekend. He invited all in the room to come to the airport for meetings with Ms. Filip and Mr. Tarola on Friday.

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.