

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held March 14th, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Present: Marty Cox	Chairman
Mike Ancona	Vice Chairman
Carey Lipps	Secretary
Gary Chesney	Commissioner

Absent: Greg Martin	Treasurer
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Staff: Chris Collins  
Sheila Jolly-Scrivner  
Matt Colvin  
Nekoda Colvin

Guests: Steve Willis, Ron Brushwitz, & Don Lewis

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Don Lewis praised Mr. Collins on his work building the ARFF Trainer cockpit in preparation for this season’s ARFF Training Classes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

*KT Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project* – A Pre-Design Meeting was held on Friday, March 3, 2023. The big takeaways were the project scope and the bid date. The main project will consist of a mill and fill (new asphalt overlay) on the entire Koziara Terminal and T Hangar Parking Lots and Ramp Feeder Roads. Curbing reconstruction (where needed) will also be part of the main project. For construction perception reasons, the desired crack fill and seal coat of Firebaugh and Aviation Drives will be added listed as alternatives. For dates, the January, 2024 IDOT Letting/Summer 2024 construction is the target. With the large amount of survey work and engineering design required, there is no way to make any letting schedule that would allow for Summer, 2023 construction.

*Air-Evac Lifeteam Joint Base Jefferson* – Brian Edmison apologized to me for the delay(s). Correspondence from Brian this morning indicated he will have the project ready for bid on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

*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 everything submitted to IDOT,

IDA for the April, 2023 Letting for both projects. Let's hope bidders are plentiful and the FAA funds the projects.

*ARFF Truck Replacement* – At the conclusion of the recent FAA Part 139, I asked Tricia Halpin, Lead Certification Inspector at the Chicago Airports District Office, about the status of my request letter dated 12/6/22. She indicated the request had been forwarded on to headquarters (Washington, DC) but no decisions had been made. Tricia indicated she would follow up and get back to me soon. In the meantime, I have applied for grant funding through Senator Duckworth's and Senator Durbin's Congressionally Directed Spending, as well as Congressman Bost's Community Project Funding Programs.

*Hangar A-1400* – I have nothing to report on this project.

*IP Lift Station* – I called Rend Lake Plumbing on Wednesday morning, February 15<sup>th</sup>, spoke to a receptionist, and left a detailed message about the project. A comprehensive article covering the project appeared in the Sentinel on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. I gave J.K. Trotter and Sons the go ahead sometime that Friday afternoon. Matt Trotter indicates a five to six week lead time on the new submersible pump.

*FBO Entry Addition* – Commissioner Lipps and I studied Brian's plan and viewed the building after last month's meeting. Commissioner Lipps has some additional thoughts on the roof line with a possible cantilevered (covered) picnic table area. I believe the northeast entry should be shifted so that a viewing area would be possible toward the Runway 23 direction. With these ideas coupled with Commissioner Lipps vast construction knowledge, I asked him to contact Brian directly to alter the plan accordingly. Commissioner Lipps and Brian Edmison discussed the project and looked at various ways to reduce costs and use locally available materials. Commissioner Lipps indicated a meeting with Mr. Collins, Brian Edmison, and himself will occur early next week to incorporate the cost saving measures in the design.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Hearing none, Chairman Cox moved forward with the Agenda.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Collins excitedly stated EAA Chapter 1155 has been selected to distribute a Ray Scholarship. The chapter submitted Maintenance Assistant Nekoda Colvin and he was approved! This means \$11,000 will be deposited in the Chapter's bank account for Nekoda's Private Pilot Training. EAA Chapter 1155 will manage Nekoda's flight training and mentor him along the way.

Mr. Collins continued with good news. Administrative Assistant Sheila Jolly Scrivner was recently named Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year! She will receive an award at the Chamber's Annual Banquet on Thursday, March 30, 2023.

Mr. Collins explained that 114,000 gallons of aviation fuel has been sold as of February 28, 2023. The modern era record of 117,060 gallons will be broken in March!

Mr. Collins presented a brief narrative published on February 23<sup>rd</sup> on USA Jet's retirement of their DC9-10 Series aircraft. USA Jet is one of the airport's dominant cargo carriers. The narrative states the company will still operate its DC9-30 Series aircraft. But it appears their MD-88's are favored due to being newer and more fuel efficient. Anticipated MD-88 service was the reason for last year's Taxiway "A" Shoulder Project. Mr. Collins recently had Hanson run some models with and without the shoulders. The models clearly show KMVN is now prepared to better handle the MD-88! The next step is to contact dispatch at USA Jet and inform them of this infrastructure upgrade.

Mrs. Scrivner stated Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton billed 58.5 hours (or 85% of his salary) in February. To date for March, Jay has billed 24.6 hours. N737CZ flew 39.1 hours in January.

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.

## **Executive Session**

March 14, 2023

Mr. Collins presented a rough draft of an Agreement between Flightline Aero Services and Ron Brushwitz for flight training/employment as a Certified Flight Instructor. He explained the Agreement has not been submitted to Legal Counsel so it is open for additions, deletions, and changes. Ron Brushwitz, who also had a draft of the Agreement, was in attendance for the Executive Session. Ron outlined his seasonal work schedule with Kash Helicopter Services, his financial requirements, and his vision for helping the airport with instructional duties. In addition to flight instruction for Flightline Aero Services, he wants to explore using his personal Citabria aircraft to offer tail wheel endorsement training as well as building an Intro to Agricultural Aviation Curriculum. Perhaps his extensive agricultural aviation experience and Citabria aircraft could draw future agricultural aviators to KMVN. Discussion ensued with the bulk of the airport led conversation centered upon how best to assist Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton, R & L Irwin Aviation, and SRT Aviation with present and future students. The contract listed percentage benchmarks and penalties for not meeting or exceeding those percentages. With his seasonal work and uncertainties with flight training, Mr. Brushwitz was concerned about penalties for not meeting stated goals. Mr. Collins mentioned the percentages were listed to simply encourage sales during slow times. Aviation Programs Director Jay Grafton has yet to do any sales as the walk in market has always been strong. Mr. Collins and the Commissioners calmed Mr. Brushwitz's fears on the stated goals. As for financial requirements, the compensation amount (full time and part time) listed in the Agreement was not sufficient to Mr. Brushwitz. Mr. Collins explained he would work with Mr. Brushwitz to determine a mutually acceptable compensation plan. Mr. Brushwitz then turned to the length of the contract (which is predicated on the amount expended on his CFI training) and explained that if he had "a good spray season" he may be able to contribute to the cost of his program – thus shortening the contract time. In conclusion, all parties agreed to move forward with the relationship and continued preparation of the Agreement.