

Mt. Vernon Airport Authority  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
Held April 8th, 2025 at 6:00 PM

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Present: Mike Ancona | Chairman      |
| Gary Chesney         | Vice Chairman |
| Carey Lipps          | Secretary     |
| Greg Martin          | Treasurer     |
| Marty Cox            | Commissioner  |

Staff: Chris Collins  
Sheila Jolly-Scrivner  
Matt Colvin

Guests: Steve Willis, Don Lewis, & Ron Brushwitz

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Hearing none, Chairman Ancona moved forward with the agenda.

**REPORTS**

**Minutes**

Minutes were presented for the March 11<sup>th</sup> 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 were in favor.

**Treasurers' Report**

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.

Mr. Collins noted that as of today's date, just over 157,700 gallons of aviation fuel has been sold setting a new record for the modern era (post 2000). Last year's record of 157,368 has been exceeded with nearly three weeks left to add more.

**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 of the motion.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Hearing none, Chairman Ancona moved forward with the agenda.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

*KT Parking Lot Rehabilitation Project* – The project should begin again soon.

*Air-Evac Lifeteam Joint Base Jefferson* – Included in your booklet is a drawing of what Air Evac's Flight Operations Director desires for an addition to the helipad. With your approval, I would like to draft an official specification and put the project out for bid. We need to determine just how much engineering assistance is required and ensure the bank is still willing to attach the cost to the original loan in the form of an addendum. At this point, all involved just want to see a number. My best guess is \$180,000. The Commissioners directed Mr. Collins to proceed.

*ARFF Truck Replacement* – I received the fully executed Agency Agreement between the MVAA and IDOT, IDA about two weeks ago. We can now start submitting paid invoices (equipment) for reimbursement. At this time, only the emergency extrication equipment has been received and paid for locally. This amounts to about \$25,750 due to the Capital Projects Account

*New SRE Building* – Hanson's Carl Schubert and Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin placed wood stakes in the area where the new SRE Building will be constructed. We have been making some tentative plans to move dirt once things dry up. Receipt of the IDOT, IDA Program Letter (expected in May) will trigger movement. The IDOT, IDA Program Letter is an official Notice to Proceed. It defines the project budget and assigns an official Project Number for correspondence and grant flow-through. Mr. Collins addressed the required architectural services. Discussion ensued. The Commissioners directed Mr. Collins to advertise a Statement of Qualifications so that an architect could be selected for the project.

*Replace Runway & Taxiway Guidance Signs* – A Pre-Design Meeting for the project(s) listed on the 2024 Program Letter, Replace Runway & Taxiway Guidance Signs, will occur soon. The meeting will include Hanson, IDOT, IDA Engineering Staff, and the airport to establish the scope, materials, and timelines for this 2026 project.

*Fence Repair* – Included in your booklet are the proposals from Collins & Hermann and Terrence Fence Company as discussed at the March Meeting. The estimate from Collins & Hermann was \$9950. The estimate from Terrance Fence was \$4481. Mr. Collins recommended approval of the low bid from Terrace Fence. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Lipps to approve the low bid by Terrace Fence. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

*MVAA Suite HVAC* – Included in your booklet are the three estimates obtained for the project. Under normal conditions, the award would go to Brian Rightnowar at \$12,500. However, I made a silly mistake on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. After determining the unit needed replacement earlier that week, the "incumbent

contractor” Bryan Johnson, called to provide the initial estimate of \$12,290. He mentioned on the call that the unit had a five to six week wait time (putting us into the air conditioning season), without thinking I said “get it coming”. Dealing with several projects at the same time, I quickly forgot I said this to him on Friday. On Monday, during my final meeting prep, I determined that with the ARFF Station Auxiliary Generator, Fence Repair, FBO Upgrade Project, and the MVAA Office HVAC Projects combined together; I would be proposing nearly \$50,000 in spending. Therefore, I decided to go with a “wants and needs”/seek alternative estimates plan. At the Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting, we eliminated the FBO Lighting Upgrade, approved the lower cost LP Gas Generator for the ARFF Station, and I pledged to get additional estimates for the HVAC and Fence Repair Projects. In doing so, I contacted Brian Rightnowar, Dylan Visser, and Brian Johnson (in that order) on Wednesday morning. Brian Johnson quickly pointed out that he had already ordered the replacement unit based on my direction the preceding Friday. My heart fell to the floor and I began hoping the other estimates would be higher. When they arrived a few days later – they obviously were not! Integrity is everything with me. And I don’t think any of these three great men would want to “eat” a \$6000 HVAC Unit, therefore, I did the following: told Brian Johnson to proceed and that the MVAA would be honoring the \$13,290 estimate. Confessed my sin to Brian Rightnowar and promised he and his company would get the next big HVAC project or HVAC service calls until \$13,290 is met or exceeded. I personally will cover the \$790 with a payroll deduction so the taxpayers are covered. This takes care of the contractors, the taxpayers are taken care of, and a HUGE lesson is learned. Discussion ensued. The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Collins’ plan with one exception – the \$790 would not be coming out of his pocket. The error will be coded as a simple mistake. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney and seconded by Commissioner Martin to proceed with this plan. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor. Mr. Collins thanked the Commissioners for their understanding and pledged to do a better job moving forward.

### **Solar Energy Projects: SE #1, SE #2, & SE#3**

To make things match Sun Solar’s nomenclature, I would like to change the airport’s project naming to S.E. Phase #1, S.E. Phase #2, and S.E. Phase #3.

SE Phase #1 (A-1100 and A-1200 Roofs) – Sun Solar will arrive on Monday to begin work! Materials will be off loaded and stored inside the Community Hangar.

SE Phase #2 (T Hangar A-800 Roof) – Sun Solar will start this project just after or close to the completion of SE Phase #1.

SE Phase #3 (39 Acre Community Solar Development East of Lake) – I have no news on this potential project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Hearing none, Chairman Ancona moved forward with the agenda.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Collins asked permission to declare the following equipment surplus: 10KW auxiliary generator (former ARFF Station unit), Sweepster Diesel Engine and Frame, and Massey Ferguson Aircraft Tug. Mr. Collins provided background for all pieces of equipment. Motion was made by Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the plan as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Collins presented an estimate from Outdoor Power for a new diesel powered mini-tractor. The mini-tractor would be used to move small aircraft and replace the golf cart at the FBO. Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin has become frustrated with the amount of maintenance and expense being conducted on the golf carts due to them being used for undesigned purposes. Research has shown that airports across the region are using mini-tractors for this purpose due to their hydrostatic transmissions – similar to a golf cart. Mr. Collins explained this is desirable and exactly the reason why the above-mentioned Massey Ferguson tug, with its mechanical clutch/manual transmission, is being declared surplus due to no usage. The proposed Bobcat CT1021 Compact Tractor is \$13,493.06 through the State Purchasing Program. Mr. Collins recommended approval at this time due to one huge reason - the upcoming tariff situation. Outdoor Power has one of these machines on order and the next one will cost 18% more. The unit is the airport's should it move now. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Commissioner Chesney as seconded by Commissioner Martin to purchase the mini-tractor as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor. As for the existing golf cart, Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin will remove to towing apparatus so that the mini-tractor will be utilized for aircraft towing. The golf cart will be used for its intended purpose – people transfer.

Mr. Collins presented the 2024 “annual project bonus” report for Maintenance Superintendent Matt Colvin. This “annual project bonus” was agreed to by both parties when Matt joined the family and is calculated using his hours serving in roles that would have been done by contractors in the past. Included in your booklet are the projects completed and the 2024 amount. Notice the highlighted trades Matt represented in 2024: Laborer, Carpenter, Cement Mason, Operating Engineer, Electrician, Machinist, Plumber, and Boilermaker! The 609.5 additional hours generated a bonus of \$13,672.11. Motion was made by Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve the bonus as presented. Upon roll call vote, all were in favor.

Ms. Sriver stated N737CZ logged 26.3 hours and N24153 logged 29.4 hours in March. The second Income Statement for SRT Flightline was presented. Aircraft maintenance revenues are building. A surplus of \$40,375.60 was reported but this number is all encompassing (maintenance, fuel sales, aircraft rentals, supplies, etc.).

Mr. Collins explained there is a national shortage of Aircraft/Powerplant Technicians. A 2022 study by Boeing cites 610,000 AP's will be needed over the next 20 years. Locally,

the SIUC graduates are going straight to Boeing, UPS, FedEx, and the airlines with no actual experience. It is tough to attract even entry level talent now!

There being no Executive Session items, 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.