

Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting

February 1, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Rowland; Supervisors Hargrave, Thompson, Wright, Southworth, and Wood; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Joe Ritchey, Tom Speziale, Public Works; David Toney, North American Flight Services; Joni Hanchett, Gateway House; Press.

Chairman Rowland called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Wright the minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Dorsey requested a resolution introducing a Local Law authorizing the lease of County property located at 479 Rowland Street, in the Town of Milton to Gateway House of Peace, Inc. for the purposes of operating a hospice home. He said this is modeled on a previous local law regarding the lease of the property to the Red Cross and the Town of Milton.

Mr. Dorsey requested a date for the Public Hearing of March 9, 2011 at 4:45 p.m. to introduce the Local Law.

A motion was made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Wright to approve a Public Hearing date of March 9, 2011 at 4:45 p.m. to introduce a Local Law authorizing the lease of County property located at 479 Rowland Street, in the town of Milton, to Gateway House of Peace, Inc., for the purpose of operating a hospice home. Unanimous.

Mr. Rowland said a subcommittee meeting was held with people from the Board of Supervisors, the two soaring clubs, the FBO and Mr. Ritchey, regarding the Saratoga County Airport. Discussions took place with regard to safety, butterfly issues, glider issues, and who has a contract with the county and who doesn't. One of the glider groups is looking to put a temporary hanger up, and it was explained how that process would work. Discussions took place on how to bring information before the Buildings and Grounds committee in a timely manner so it could be discussed over the month amongst the committee, and then brought back to the floor for a vote. It was realized that future discussions were necessary, as there was a communications issue between the fixed based operator and the soaring clubs. Issues were looked at that needed to be discussed with the FAA and possibly TSA. Mr. Rowland said that he explained to the Soaring Clubs that it probably wouldn't be a quick fix, and that it would be a process that we would have to go through in order to accomplish some of their needs in conjunction with the FBO needs and the like. Mr. Rowland said this is most likely going to be a continuous process.

Mr. Wright asked if another meeting was scheduled? Mr. Rowland said nothing has been scheduled; however, they are looking to meet with consultants and to have some discussions with FAA and to meet with DEC to find out what could be done with the butterflies. Part of the problem is that you can't clear and mow areas, he said.

Mr. Thompson said there are concerns with Wild Turkeys, Deer and Geese in the grass, was well.

Mr. Rowland said they met with the engineering firm, and gave them some direction that they are going to have to go back and look at. They will then bring reports to this committee about what their plans are.

Mr. Rowland said he has not heard any further from the Glider Club with regard to the temporary hanger. He said they were told that they would have to get the request in front of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, where they would review it for thirty days and then a decision would be made at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Rowland read the following letter that was received from Dave Toney of North American Flight Services.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the crew that snowplows the runways and taxiways at the airport. The job these gentlemen do is to be commended. They are always helpful and courteous, many times I have asked for their assistance and without hesitation they respond.

It is a difficult task to keep the airport open, so much area needs to be plowed, and the effort they put in is to be commended. The runways and taxiways are plowed and scraped in a matter of hours after they arrive. I have never heard them complain or even make a face when asked to clear an area, they simply do their job. I know when they arrive the airport will be clean in a matter of hours.

In closing, all of us hear about the wrong doings of our employees, staff and co-workers, but no one takes the time to tell others about something good happening. I think you all should be proud of this group of men.

David N. Toney,
General Manager of North American Flight Services
Saratoga County Airport

Mr. Rowland said Mr. Toney said the crew from Public Works has done an exemplary job this year and have been very helpful and cooperative.

Mr. Rowland said he has always felt that people should be commended for doing a good job.

Mr. Rowland said the tentative date for next months meeting is March 1st.

Mr. Thompson said he received a couple of calls last week from residents on the handicapped accessibility at building five from Elections which is upstairs to where the machines are. Mr. Thompson said that the machines are on the upper level and people had to go to the lower level to Elections to register, and then employees had to push them up and around to the sidewalks at the upper level. Mr. Thompson said handicapped accessibility to the building should be addressed.

Mr. Ritchey said there is handicapped accessibility in the lower level, but not the upper level.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom