

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN  
TOWN BOARD INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
RAMAPO VALLEY AIRPORT

Town Hall 7/ 9/86 8:00 P.M.

Present: Supervisor Holbrook  
Councilmen Carey, Lettre, Maloney, Nowicki  
Patricia Sheridan, Town Clerk

Supervisor declared Town Board Informational Meeting open. Assemblage saluted the Flag.

Supervisor Holbrook said that the Town Board elected to have this Informational Meeting because they felt that with the variety of interest that has been expressed in the fate of the Ramapo Valley Airport that there should be a public meeting to hear the views of the public. Supervisor said that the Town has no interest in the sale of the property. This is something that we learned about when the public did. We did not encourage the sale or the proposed sale of the property and it came as a surprise to us.

Appearance: Jonathan L. Levine  
220 No. Little Tor Road  
New City, NY 10956

In opposition to airport

Appearance: Milton H. Levine  
34 Birchwood Terrace  
Nanuet, NY 10954

In opposition

Appearance: Richard Bell  
Chairman of Disaster Services for the  
Rockland County Chapter of the American Red Cross  
New City

In Favor

Appearance: Chief Robert Copello  
Spring Valley Fire Dept.

In Favor

Appearance: Ted Robinson  
Asst. Manager of the Teterboro Flight  
Standard District Office - FAA/Safety Specialists

In Favor

Appearance: Ken Kroll  
Teterboro Airport - FAA

In Favor

Appearance: Felix Matusky  
43 Husted Lane  
West Nyack  
Member Concerned Citizens to Save The Airport

In Favor

Appearance: Rose Mary Greely  
Germonds Road  
West Nyack

In Favor

Continued on Next Page

ABE633

48

TBM - 7/9/86  
Page 2

Appearance: Andrew Schiffer  
67 Rosedale Ave.  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
Member of the Board of Directors - American Institute of Architects

In Favor

Appearance: Hans Schmidt  
93B Lake Road  
Valley Cottage, NY  
Commander, Rockland County Civil Air Patrol

In Favor

Appearance: Mark Harrison  
EAA CHAPTER 69

In Favor

Appearance: Noel J. Blackman  
17 Van Winkle Road  
Monsey  
Concerned Citizens to Save the Airport

In Favor

Appearance: Bert Dahm  
Greater Rockland Local Development Corp  
1 Blue Hill Plaza  
Pearl River

In Favor

Appearance: Val Dagaev  
Chairman, Convent Defense Committee

Introduced Archpriest Alexander Fedorowski and  
interpreted his remarks in English for him.

In Opposition

Appearance: Archpriest George Larin  
38 So. Mill Street  
Nyack, NY 10960  
Represents the Parish of the Russian Orthodox Church, Nyack, NY

In Opposition

Appearance: Boris Mitrohin  
Parish President  
Parish of St. Seraphim at Novo-Diveevo Convent

In Opposition

Appearance: Val Dagaev

In Opposition

Appearance: Tom O'Looney  
6 N. Lyn Court  
Bardonia

In Favor

Appearance: John Pluchino  
500 Airport Executive Park  
Spring Valley, NY

In Favor

TBM - 7/9/86  
Page 3

Appearance: Franklin Rike  
228 N. Place  
New Jersey

In Favor

Appearance: Deputy Chief Walter Key  
Spring Valley Fire Dept.

In Favor

Appearance: Marjorie Russo  
President Nanuet Civic Assoc.

In Opposition

Appearance: J. Martin Cornell  
14 So. Main Street  
New City, NY  
Attorney for the present owners of the airport

In Opposition

Appearance: Alan Yassky  
Smith Road  
Spring Valley  
Owner Airport Executive Park

In Opposition

Appearance: Karl Kirshner

Involved in development and ownership and appraisal of industrial property in Rockland County

In Opposition

Appearance: Kevin Lawler

CIR Management, Inc. Commercial Industrial Real Estate Brokerage  
Rockland County

In Opposition

Appearance: George Faist  
Spring Valley, NY

In Opposition

Appearance: Bruce Cohen  
277 Treetop Circle  
Nanuet, NY

In Favor

Appearance: Norman Burd  
143 Treetop Circle  
Nanuet, NY

In Favor

Appearance: Richard Leonard  
195 Raymond St.  
Hillsdale, NJ

In Favor

Supervisor Holbrook asked the Town Board if they had any comments to make before closing the Public Informational Meeting.

Continued on Next Page

ABE633

Councilman Nowicki said she would like to take time to consider the evidence that's been offered and thanked the speakers for the facts they presented and said it was very informative.

Councilman Maloney said that the bottom line is does a Municipality want to get into the airport business? He felt that the operation of such an airport would cost the Town millions of dollars that would have to come from the taxpayers. He said he listened to all the arguments and he felt that his concern is for the 83,000 people in Clarkstown and to keep the LIO land that everybody including the Town Planner who said it is so important because we don't have a lot of it. He said he would therefore opt not to consider entering any condemnation proceedings; not to spend millions and millions of dollars to purchase the land and then millions and millions of dollars more to keep an airport in operation.

Councilman Lettre thanked the people who came out to express their views on this issue. He felt that if the owners of the property did not think it was a good deal for them then why should the Town Board burden the taxpayers of the Town of Clarkstown with such a terrific deal. He felt that the Town should have good clean rateables that would lower or stabilize the tax base in Clarkstown. He said he is not in favor of condemnation, purchase, operation or anything to do with an airport in the Town of Clarkstown.

Councilman Carey said that on February 2, 1977 an airplane fell into the street on Pineview Avenue in Bardonias. It was a miracle that there were no injuries or houses smashed. He said he wished they could accommodate everybody for and against but I agree with my colleagues and I share their concerns and I would vote the way they would.

Councilman Nowicki said actually it is with a great sense of reluctance that I say that we will not have an airport in Clarkstown and I say that because I have almost a sad feeling that we are going to look back at this as we do with the abandoned railroad beds when we wanted to revive railroad traffic in some areas of Rockland we were not able to do it because we had sold off that property. However, I was on the Planning Board in 1976 which was just after Allan and George really had bought that property. The owners never violated their original plan and their original promise. She said she never looked down the road to see that the airport would be gone and yet that is what we planned at that time. She said with a sense of reluctance and with a sense of sympathy for my neighbors and for myself because I do live right in the path of the airport but I think it is time for it go.

Supervisor Holbrook said he has been the recipient of many phone calls and letters on behalf of the continuation of the airport and those who want to see it go out of existence. He said he shares the sentiments of the Board Members in regard to the Town's getting involved in operating an airport and he does that basically for two reasons: 1. I believe the safety is a very important question because I don't believe that any improvement could make it as safe as it should be in the proximity of a residential area and of course residences have impinged upon it as residences have impinged upon our blasting operations in Trap Rock and Lone Star Industries and in other areas of the Town. 2. The other thing that makes me a little anxious is the cost of the operation if the Town were to be involved in this. I think it would be difficult at best for the Town to keep its head above water in an operation of an airport, something that we have no experience with. I do know that with the development of industry which is desirable from the standpoint of rateables that traffic could and very probably will be a problem but that is something the Town will have to deal with aggressively and I think we have to be more aggressive

TBM - 7/9/86  
Page 5

with the State of New York in terms of dealing with improvements on Route 59 to try to address the type of traffic that would come out there. I don't see myself as a Supervisor taking any initiative in this particular case to call for condemnation or purchase for those reasons. He said he appreciates the comments of those who spoke here tonight. Those who spoke in favor of the airport might feel that their comments fell upon deaf ears but I do believe that this is something that was thrust upon the Town. We did not seek to have the airport sold but then again it is private property and those private developers can do with their land as they see fit in terms of sale to other people. I really don't think at this particular point in time that the Town should get involved in the airport and I would not support that unless directed to act in that regard by the Town Board which I don't think from the comments of the Board Members will be forthcoming.

There being no one further wishing to be heard on motion of Councilman Maloney, seconded by Councilman Nowicki and unanimously adopted, the Informational Meeting was closed, time: 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted



PATRICIA SHERIDAN  
Town Clerk

ABE633