

From: Allen, Susan [Susan.Allen@vermont.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 4:38 PM
To: EXE - SrStaff
Subject: CONFIDENTIAL: AOT issue:

Middlebury Airport – it's a small project, \$2-plus million that extends runway and widens it. The local neighborhood (about 100 homes within a mile of the airport) are up in arms that we are going to lengthen the runway, thereby attracting more commercial activity at the airport, more hangers will be built and more airplanes will be flying in and out.

Typically the way we do these is AOT deals with the selectboard. But this neighborhood group has been so prolific in their efforts to stop the project, and they have Rep. Sheldon who doesn't support the project, that Chris is going to meet with them tonight. They have different degrees of opposition (Pat Berry opposes it, but wants to be reasonable, for example; other extreme are those who outright oppose it). This will become an Act 250 battle.

95 percent federally funded; it's a safety project. Increase safety ratio from low 80 percent to 95 percent. Some people don't feel safe enough to land there, so they keep their small planes in Burlington (there's one mega-rich woman who wants this, and the neighbors worry she'll build a huge hanger, etc.).

Chris's plan, with the advice of Brian Searles, is to keep pushing for this WITH the selectboard. But if the selectboard starts to oppose, AOT is happy to back down too.

I told Chris that makes sense to me, but I'd let him know if others disagreed and felt this wasn't worth the fight. This will require an Act 250 permit.