

Mayor Chris Peabody

January 29, 2024

Municipality of Brockton

100 Scott Street

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Mayor Peabody

Friends of the Saugeen Municipal Airport and COPA 54 (Canadian Owners and Pilots Association Flight 54) members are seeking clarity on the position of Brockton Council regarding the Saugeen Municipal Airport. Most of our membership are taxpayers in the Municipality of Brockton. Some own hangars, and some own other properties in your municipality.

Our group of concerned stakeholders and taxpayers are questioning the dubious rhetoric emanating from members of your council. There are cases of our representative on the Saugeen Municipal Airport Commission stating blatant mistruths during council meetings. These have not been challenged by yourself as chair of the council meetings. The result is the council is taking decisions based on very faulty information. Brockton council must have accurate information to make decisions on or we see inexplicable decisions such as an attempt to sell assets for short-term gains.

Comparing a public airport to a private gun club or hockey team is ridiculous. I do not ever recall a medivac flight coming or going to a hockey game or to our local gun club. I have, however, seen lots of them at the airport. Any municipal airport serves as vital infrastructure to a community that is trying to keep its citizens safe. Remember if you will the important role of the airport during the Walkerton Water Crisis. Does critical infrastructure cost money? Of course, it does. We all expect to pay our share of taxes to support roads and bridges, as well as recreation centres and libraries etc..

Any municipal council should be looking forward to a growing and prosperous future. We are certain that a viable airport is crucial to our regional growth and prosperity. We do not wish our council to squander the opportunity it has to support our airport. It will be almost impossible for a future council to establish an airport to correct a short-sighted decision made today.

In the spirit of working together to improve our community we ask that you attend our regular monthly meeting on Saturday February 10 at 9:30 am to answer questions that we may have and to work cooperatively going forward. We are planning for you to make a presentation to us followed by a short question and answer session. We will place this on our agenda for the meeting. Meetings are held in the boardroom at Saugeen Municipal Airport.

Please confirm that you will be able to attend on February 10, if not, we can accommodate any other time before or shortly after that date on a day that better fits your schedule.

Best regards.

Friends of the Saugeen Municipal Airport

President Jack Zeinstra

[REDACTED]

COPA 54

Captain Barry Tschirhart

[REDACTED]

Cc: Walkerton Herald-Times

Cc: Dave Hocking

Chair Saugeen Municipal Airport