



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Airport Agreement – Second extension request

Date: May 21, 2019

Background:

As Council is aware, the three CAO's recently asked for an extension request of 60 days from the date the Airport agreement expired, being March 31, 2019. The 60-day period is coming to an end at the end of May. This request is to extend the agreement an additional 60 days, with the understanding that this extension will be the last one required

Why a second extension?

The first extension was in a time where budget, Mariners Center expansion, and other priorities were occurring at the same time. We the CAO's likely underestimated the time those other priorities would require. We have managed significant progress from the first meeting to the second, and we are confident that while we are requesting additional time, that the result will offer clear direction to the board and councils.

Progress report:

The three CAO's have met twice formally to discuss the details important to the agreement. We were collectively informed from the recent facilitation between the three municipal councils, that indicated certain areas of consensus. These areas include but are not restricted to:

- A commitment to reduce the operational and capital footprint of the airport.
- A commitment to close one runway – being 15-33.
- A commitment to entertain a potential sale of key parcels of land that would become available upon closure of the above-mentioned runway.
- A commitment to a 24-month deal, with a number of measurable outcomes, to track progress made.

The agreement we are crafting is not only addressing these issues, it is also intended to provide more flexibility in decision making to the board. The CAO's collective goal is to speed up decisions by delegating certain authority to them, while defining which decisions require a deeper input from the owners.

Commitment from the CAO's:

Presuming the Councils agreed with the second extension, the CAO's have committed to weekly meetings, with the first booked on June 6th, 2019, and the last, if necessary, on July 11th, 2019. Furthermore, it is our collective commitment to hold a special meeting of Councils, with all councilors invited, to discuss the result of our work. This would be held on July 25th at the Municipal office in Hebron.

Since this is a collaborative, regional agreement, it made sense to first present it to the group, and the group could openly discuss the draft agreement first amongst their peers, then (presumably) endorse the agreement separately at a later date, amended or not.

CAOs' recommendation:

That Councils approve a second 60-day extension (deadline July 31, 2019) of the intermunicipal agreement respecting the Yarmouth International Airport Corporation and authorize the negotiation schedule presented as part of this request for decision.

Suggested motion:

Move that an extension of another 60 days be granted to the CAO to negotiate a revised Intermunicipal Agreement for the Yarmouth International Airport Corporation. This extension is authorized under the same conditions as the original extension request, and following a revised negotiation schedule as recommended by the 3 CAO's.