



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item:

Date:

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

The three councils met to discuss the airport corporation and its current status. Council would have received the summary of the power point presentation that was done on that day. The group met on August 6th from 9 to 12:30, at the Hebron Recreation Center.

The majority of each Council was present, present for MODA was Warden Muise, Dep Warden Surette, Councilors Diggdon, Albright and Bourque.

The discussion began with presentations, and then went into question period and open discussion for the group.

In summary, there is consensus that the service as currently delivered cannot continue as is. With the COVID pandemic impacting air services worldwide, it spells certain change in the entire industry. As our airport is not funded or owned by Transport Canada, it leaves lots of uncertainty for the future of airport operations.

The capital costs to replace key assets was discussed. Without other levels of government, this will simply not occur. The owners are left with two major decisions; to close the airport operations, or to significantly reduce operations.

The supermajority of the group agreed that they were not ready to close the airport without understanding all the implications. All want for the annual cost to be reduced significantly. While municipal staff has learned much about airport operations over the years, the recommendation and execution of a reduced operation would require a third party to execute. Time is of the essence, as it will take time to both analyze and execute the recommendations.

Council has received legal advice on the current contract, which is subject to client – solicitor privilege.

MGA considerations:

Intermunicipal agreements supporting ownership of local airport is specifically allowed in old Section 65, and revised Section 65.

CAO's Recommendation:

CAO would support the conclusion of the group in its regional meeting. It should be noted as well that the airport corporation is obtaining legal advice on the current status of the intermunicipal agreement.

Suggested motion as summarized in the regional meeting:

1. That Council extend the current airport agreement with budgeted funding to March 31st, 2021.
 - a. That Council extend the current airport agreement to March 31st, 2021 and provide notice to the Board of funding.
2. That Council provide the mandate to the airport board to right size operations that align with the current economic environment.