

Dear Neighbor and Friend:

May 2006

Many people have asked me how I will vote on the Bond Ordinance on May 16th. I am absolutely against any airport expansion but will vote "NO" and here are my reasons why:

1. I believe in your right to own property and do not believe our local government should be able to take it just because they think maybe something bad will happen if they don't. We need to be certain. Condemnation should only be used as a last resort. I, too, would like closure on Solberg Airport and am concerned what an expansion would do to our community. However, I refuse to let fear and impatience cloud my better judgment.
2. I don't see the threat of an immediate airport expansion warranting the drastic measure of a condemnation action today. For the Solbergs to expand against the town's wishes, they must first be denied municipal approval in a formal proceeding before they could appeal to the NJDOT Commissioner of Transportation to overturn such a denial for cause. Even then there is no guarantee the Commissioner would overturn the town's denial. This process would take years once started, and the Solbergs have not made any formal application to the town to expand, which would begin that process.
3. The FAA has specifically stated in writing they will give no Airport Improvement Program grant money to expand the airport unless municipal approvals are first obtained. The Solbergs have never applied for such a grant.
4. **I believe there is a better way to prevent an airport expansion that will keep the airport operating "as is" and keep the land open around it without costing us any more in taxes. I believe an understanding can be reached that if the town does not move forward with any condemnation actions, the Solbergs will not take any steps to expand. Our Township Committee could, in effect, draw a line in the sand and tell the Solbergs that if they move to complete the Environmental Assessment or submit any expansion application to the town, or move to further expansion approvals with the NJDOT, or FAA the town will move aggressively to condemn the property. I also believe this should be put on the November ballot as a public question. If approved, this will give the town the moral authority to act decisively with condemnation if the Solbergs cross the line and will also let the Solbergs know the residents are in support of such a policy. In addition, our Township Committee should try to influence pending state legislation limiting expansion of an airport in close proximity to a school. The location of Holland Brook and Readington Middle Schools would give Readington a valid argument to lobby for such legislation.**
5. I believe our Township Committee wants to condemn the Solberg property to acquire it as part of their "open space" agenda, and is following a carefully crafted, predetermined plan to do so.
6. I believe the Township Committee has been far less than candid with us. They have not been open to new ideas or solutions. Too much that comes from the town or BRAAC is misleading and inaccurate. I am also concerned about our Township Committee initially hiring a public relations firm secretly behind the backs of the residents and the scare tactics and propaganda campaign that has been waged on us.
7. I don't believe the cost estimates and appraisals the town has given us, doubt any reimbursement money from other sources will be forthcoming based on condemnation, and think the ultimate cost of any condemnation will dramatically increase our taxes far more than we have been led to believe. **A "NO" vote is not a vote for airport expansion, but a vote against a rush to spend taxpayers money.**
8. I am fearful that the Township Committee's actions may cause the NJDOT to step back into the picture and try to acquire Solberg Airport. If that happens, the town loses all control since the State is not subject to municipal approvals. Further, a municipality has no power to condemn any property owned by the State.

Despite my personal feelings, the voters will decide the issue and, if elected, I will carry out the decision of our residents. To see all the research I have compiled on Solberg Airport and for information on the other important issues facing our town, please go to my website at www.ReadingtonMatters.com

Sincerely,

Ed Dudzinski

Readington Township Committee Candidate

Paid for by Ed Dudzinski for Readington Township Committee, 5 Brier Road, Whitehouse Station, N.J.