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**Subject:** responses to Andrew Hart letter

Here are the responses that OHAC, Dick Carver and Lynn Chaplin prepared for discussion at Mondays Selectmen's meeting

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> to all

**We have the following comments we would like to offer the Selectmen in response to Andrew Hart's letter of 6/11/2020 to the Town regarding the Interlocal Agreement.**

**The comments were to put together, as discussed with the Selectboard, by OHAC and by citizens of Owls Head, and are not "Mr. Wexler's wishes".**

**Andrew Hart is incorrect about the reason the original Interlocal Agreement was agreed to by the parties.**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the current Interlocal Agreement clearly states "This Interlocal Agreement is entered into for the purpose of allowing the County and Town to jointly regulate the growth of the Knox County Regional Airport." The "fair distribution of mitigation" was for mitigation resulting from additional development at the Airport. The Interlocal Agreement was put in place as a direct result of the moratorium the Town placed on any Airport development. There is a trove of public information during the timeframe of the moratorium and the Interlocal Agreement that reflects the concern of the**

**citizens of Owls Head over the unregulated growth at the Airport and the feeling that the Airport needed to be regulated to protect the Town.**

**It was clearly not only about environmental mitigation as set forth in Mr. Hart's letter. Recently, the County produced a drawing that showed the runway expanding into Ash Point Road and Dublin Road to create a longer runway so that planes could take off with more fuel.**

**The new proposal from the County is about expansion of the Airport without any meaningful vote from the Town. This is very far from what the original current Interlocal Agreement's intent was –that Agreement was in place to curtail the expansion of the Airport and that the Interlocal Agreement was a binding Agreement. There is no obvious benefit to the Town of Owl's Head within the County's proposal –in fact, the opposite is true.**

**The proposal from the County is very one-sided, and loaded in the County's favor.**

**A few questions to discuss:**

- 1. As far as Airport expansion, the County wishes Owls Head to have NO say in the matter, beyond “consulting” with the Airport and County, with the vote by a new Joint Board ---The same Joint Board that the County wants to have with (3) votes representing the County and (2) votes representing the Town. The recommended draft agreement that OHAC and Owls Head citizens put together agreed to a possible expansion of the Airport, as long as the Town gave full agreement, and that the Joint Board consisted of just the County and Town, as in the current/original Interlocal Agreement.**
- 2. Why do we need a new Board at all, the make up of which favors the County? The current agreement was administered for 20 years directly by the Town and County.**

- 3. Why do we have to vote on the new agreement at this year's Town Meeting and why is the County pushing for this?**
  
- 4. Can we see the FAA Regulations that state that a local municipality cannot regulate growth of an Airport in a rural neighborhood without being in violation of Federal Law? Mr. Hart indicated in his letter that there is room for negotiation. We certainly need to follow up on that.**