

Berlin Airport Authority
February 11, 2025

Present were; Chair Cone, Commissioners Grenier, Morency, Fortin, Higbee, Theberge and Valerino

Others present included City Manager Phillip L. Warren Jr., Town of Milan Selectman Michael Galuszka, Lisa Connell, Berlin Daily Sun and Members of the Public.

Chair Cone opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and asked to add an item to the agenda for public comments. Commissioner Fortin moved, seconded by Commissioner Theberge, to add public comments to the agenda as item 2a. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Theberge – yes, Higbee – yes, Valerino – yes, Morency – yes, Fortin – yes, Cone – yes, Grenier – no

Minutes of January 15, 2025 BAA Meeting

Commissioner Theberge moved to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2025 BAA meeting, Commissioner Valerino seconded and the motion carried by all in favor.

Consider correspondence from Michael E. Galuszka, Selectman, Town of Milan, NH

Commissioner Grenier commented that the agreement has been vetted by the NH Attorney General's office and the City's Attorney making sure all interests are protected. He sees no reason why to alter or change this agreement. Commissioner Fortin stated that the Town of Milan is getting this jammed down their throat with zero say whatsoever. The National Guard is making no commitment to consider any Zoning or Planning Board rules. He doesn't believe this is right as Milan taxpayers are having to deal with this as neighbors of the airport. He doesn't have any issue with this but other constituents do. He personally would like the National Guard to make a commitment to the City of Berlin that yes, they will approach the Town of Milan Selectboard and find out what their laws are. Chair Cone explained the position of the National Guard as it relates to permitting and construction.

Commissioner Theberge conveyed his dissatisfaction with the lease amount. Commissioner Grenier commented that he negotiated with the National Guard for the airport to receive \$4,999 for operation and maintenance. This is over and above fuel sales. Commissioner Higbee commented he agrees with Commissioner Grenier that there is no need to change the agreement. He stated that it is unfortunate that despite the fact that there's been representatives from the Town of Milan on the BAA all this time we've been discussing this. It doesn't seem like communication from those meetings got back to the citizens of Milan. Commissioner Valerino commented he supports the agreement as is. Commissioner Grenier moved, seconded by Commissioner Morency to not consider altering the agreement that was presented by Mr. Galuszka. So moved, the motion carried by roll call vote. Theberge – no, Higbee – yes, Valerino – yes, Morency – yes, Fortin – no, Cone – yes, Grenier – yes

Public Comments

Michael Galuszka, Town of Milan selectman and resident discussed his displeasure with the lease agreement and his perception that the project is not supported by a majority of Milan residents. He advised that the Town of Milan Selectman have decided to hold another public meeting in March. They will post it twice in the newspaper with enough advanced notice so that anyone who has interest in this subject will be able to attend. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Milan School. Mr. Warren stated that there is a Berlin City Council meeting March 3rd where he will be presenting the FY26 budget. Most of the BAA members will be attending the City Council meeting. Mr. Galuszka stated they will take this into consideration and see if there's a better date and time.

Adjourn

There being no further business Commissioner Valerino moved to adjourn; Commissioner Fortin seconded and the motion carried by all in favor. The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Danielle Rioux
Executive Assistant