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**BEAVER ISLAND AIRPORT COMMISSION**

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **B.I. AIRPORT COMMISSION AVIGATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS END**

After a lengthy process, it appears that an agreement for land purchase and avigation rights to property at the east end of the Beaver Island Airport has ended. The Beaver Island Airport Commission (or its representative) has been in discussion with current and former property owners of the land on Paid En Ogs Road to ensure that tree height does not encroach into the airspace for the Beaver Island Airport to maintain a safe glide path for west runway 27, instrument approach.

The Beaver Island Airport Commission (BIAC) is a legal entity established by Peaine and St James Townships in the early 1980s to operate the Beaver Island Airport on land titled in the name of the Townships and restricted for use as a public airport facility. The Airport Commission is the responsible entity to ensure that the Beaver Island Airport is operated within applicable State of Michigan and Federal Aviation Administration Regulations. The BI Airport Commission is made up of three residents from each township and one at large member. The Commission hires an Airport Manager who handles the day-to-day operations of the Airport and maintains communication with necessary State and Federal regulators.

In 2011, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) identified trees penetrating into the approach, located on said property (commonly referred to as the Shanoule Property), and FAA surveys were provided showing obstructions needing removal. The previous property owners agreed to remove certain trees, and later declined an offer by BIAC to purchase the property for the same purpose. The property was subsequently sold to the current owners and the BIAC began the acquisition process for easements and/or purchase of the property through discussions with the new owner's representative in 2016, with the formal process beginning in spring 2017.

Proceeding with due diligence, the BIAC engaged a firm to complete an FAA required, detailed 'Valuation Determination' appraisal of the property. Following the appraisal, the BIAC made a good faith offer for purchase of some property and avigation easement of some of the property. After good faith negotiations were entered into and despite significant time and effort put into those negotiations, no agreement for the purchase was reached. The Township remains open to new discussions regarding the sale if the property owner is interested in selling at a future date.