

Courier News
September 22, 2006

Airport takeover sure to be costly

In Brandon Lausch's Sept. 16 article "Alliance supporting Solberg Airport is a mystery," Mayor Gerald Shamey suggests the complaint filed against Readington is "frivolous."

What's frivolous is the Readington Township Committee's justification for using taxpayer funds to gain control of Hunterdon-Solberg Airport and make taxpayers foot the bill. Adding insult to injury, the Township Committee already has spent more than \$100,000 of taxpayer money to influence taxpayer opinion. It is hiding the reality of tax truth behind feel-good words such as "open space" and "preservation," when, in reality, the Township Committee has taken aim at a property owner in its unending quest to expand its power and influence over Readington residents.

The committee should be limited to the amount authorized to acquire the property because voters were misled by ballot language into believing that the acquisition cost would not be more than \$22 million.

If the eminent domain process continues, the actual cost to acquire the property will surely exceed what voters authorized the cost of the acquisition to be. Now that's frivolous.

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