

Auriemma, Muir will keep jetport out of Readington

EDITOR:

I was struck by the similarity of the remarks made by the Democratic candidates for Readington Township Committee in last week's *Hunterdon Review*, with the remarks made earlier this year in the primary season by candidate Ed Dudzinski. Residents will recall that although Ed initially denied being an agent of airport interests, he said that the town was spending money where it was not necessary, and called for a mediator or facilitator in the airport dispute. Despite his early protestations at not being the airport's man in the election, Ed subsequently came out in full support of the airport's position in the referendum in a direct mailing to the township.

Interestingly, both Democratic candidates,

Harvey Baron and William Courtney, have now taken similar positions on the airport.

Principle? Maybe not. The remarks were so similar that I was motivated to do a quick Internet search. Querying the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airmen's Certificate database (www.faa.gov under the Licenses and Certificates tab), I discovered that Harvey Baron forgot to mention in his recitation of qualifications for township office that he is a licensed pilot. A further search of the FAA's Web site reveals that he is also a FAA-licensed aviation medical examiner. I guess he didn't think that these qualifications were relevant in a town where the major topic of the past three elections has been airport expansion.

Are the two Democratic candidates sleep-

ers for the airport? I'm reminded of Solberg attorney and business partner Larry Berger's comment, as reported by Mayor (Gerard) Shamey in the Jan. 17 public meeting, that Solberg Aviation would spend as much money as necessary to win seats on the Township Committee. Maybe they're still trying – the airport issue is not settled until the court battles are won. Residents who don't want a jetport will find a surer thing in the Republican incumbents – Tom Auriemma and Beatrice Muir – who have demonstrated in repeated votes that they will do what it takes to keep a jetport out of Readington.

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