

TSBP rejects Wiarton-Keppel Airport business plan

Wiarthon Echo

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Town of South Bruce Peninsula council has definitively rejected a business plan submitted by the Wiarton-Keppel Airport.

Council voted unanimously to reject the plan, agreeing across the board that the plan lacked detail and represented nothing more than a "wish-list."

Coun. Marilyn Bowman told the press, "there wasn't any firm numbers of revenue, and there's no reason to believe that in ten years the Airport would be self-sustaining - that was a premise that the business plan was supposed to be built on."

Council agreed that the ideology of 'build it, and they will come,' has failed. "We did build it, and no one is coming," added coun. Janice Jackson.

The submission was to expand on previously discussed ground rules that would keep the Airports existing International designation with Transport Canada.

Mayor John Close said that the Airport can opt to drop down to a Regional facility and lose its International status, but either way the re-paving of the runway must be addressed. It's simply a matter of figuring out how to afford the costly repairs.

Council was particularly disappointed that they had not received any word from the Airport Manager, Ken Hamilton.

Hamilton was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

"We expected more to be added to [the original outline] by the Airport Manager. It did not appear like anything was added, so at this point, quite honestly, I don't think we can borrow a nickel on this business plan without his input," said Close.