

By Daily Telegram staff

December 16, 2015 5:00PM

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Lenawee County authorizes airport property negotiations

A second phase of Lake Madison home purchases to settle litigation with the Lenawee County Airport is apparently moving toward completion.

Lenawee County commissioners met in special session Monday afternoon to discuss a property purchase in closed session. Commissioners then voted in open session to authorize the county administrator and the airport manager to continue negotiations for a property purchase, said county administrator Martin Marshall.

Marshall said he was unable to reveal what property is the subject of the negotiations.

Because of the approaching holidays, he said, the negotiations are unlikely to be completed until after the first of the year, he said.

A potential purchase came up after the commission's regular meeting on Dec. 9, he said.

"It was unfortunate that it came up after the board meeting," Marshall said. The special meeting Monday was needed to respond and begin negotiations before the holidays, he said.

In October, the commission voted to transfer \$450,000 of reserve funds to the airport to complete the purchase of three of four homes involved in a second round of lawsuits involving houses at Lake Madison under the airport's runway protection zone.

Five houses were purchased and removed in the past few years after owners contested an effort to purchase only easements above the homes.

Four other homeowners filed a lawsuit last year claiming the airport should also purchase their property because of the impact of a runway improvement project that allows larger aircraft to use it.

The October agreement left one house to be purchased to resolve the litigation.



PHOTO/ TELEGRAM FILE PHOTO BY LAD STRAYER

This house is among those near the Lenawee County Airport with owners who were involved in an eminent domain lawsuit with the county.

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