

Airport, residents

struggle to find

common ground

Smith Reynolds officials say landfill is necessary to survival of struggling airport

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THE CHRONICLE

Smith Reynolds Airport officials are now telling residents in communities that surround the airport that without a proposed runway safety area, jobs at the airport may be in jeopardy.

Smith Reynolds will go before the city's Zoning Board of Adjustment next month to push for a special-use permit so that an inert debris landfill can be established on airport property. Up to a million yards of debris from demolished buildings would be dumped in a hole at the end of the airport's main runway. After the hole is filled, which officials estimate could take up to five years, the debris would be covered with grass and serve as a safety area, which would give aircraft a cushion of sorts if they were to overrun the runway.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment was to decide on the special-use permit in early October, but the board tabled the matter because of concerns of people who live around the airport. Ed



Photo by Kevin Walker
Leon Kay asks a question at last week's meeting.

Cox, director of the airport, and Chris Veal, the deputy airport director who is leading the safety area project, met with concerned residents last Thursday at Solid

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