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Date: 10/24/2023

Subject: WPR23LA329 / Phone conversation

Contact: Timothy Clarkson

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by the pilot in telephone conversations.

The pilot departed KNB with 3 passengers (his teenage relatives), and no more than 30 lbs. of baggage, using two notches of flaps for takeoff. The airplane was within weight and balance and center of gravity limits for runway 01, with performance charts indicating just under a 450 foot per minute rate of climb. The pre takeoff checks had been performed. The airplane had been performing normally during the previous flights and had not had any issues. After he was airborne, he reduced the flaps to one notch, then to flaps zero and the airplane began to descend. The pilot nosed over slightly to gain airspeed and maneuvered to avoid power lines. The airplane cleared the powerlines impacting a road, then traveled through a fence and into a hay field beyond the road.

The pilot had stated to the FAA that the engine never stopped running and that there were no preaccident mechanical issues. That statement was later retracted.

A nearby door surveillance video with audio only was provided to the pilot that sounded like the engine stopped developing power near the time of the accident.

Total time: 1156

Make and Model: 76