

Metroland

No answers forthcoming for council

Fri Jun 01, 2007

Local councillors attempted to send a message to the Region Monday night by refusing to allow Regional Chairman Roger Anderson to speak about the proposed Energy From Waste plant.

The issue came up as council was discussing what costs would be upfronted by the Region. Clarington staff had recommended an extensive peer review of all materials on the proposed project so far with the Region agreeing to pay "all reasonable costs" up to \$200,000. Anything beyond \$200,000 would be subject to Regional council approval.

Staff has estimated the cost of the review at about \$500,000. As a result, the Region would have to approve the additional \$300,000. Sounds like that's a question a representative from the Region could answer. Who better to answer it than the Regional chairman himself?

No answers were forthcoming however, because our local councillors blocked him from addressing council. Mr. Anderson needed support from council in order to speak as a delegation because he missed the deadline to sign on as a delegation. In a rare move our local councillors, Gord Robinson, Adrian Foster, Ron Hooper and Willie Woo denied his request.

Why? According to Coun, Robinson the four of them feel Clarington's concerns were not being represented at the Region and wanted to deliver a message.

However, if they'd allowed Mr. Anderson to address council they would have been able to ask him any questions they wanted regarding EFW. How could that be limiting them?

Denying Mr. Anderson the opportunity to speak about the proposed facility was an embarrassment and a missed opportunity.

This issue needs open dialogue in order for the Region to be able to make a decision as to whether it is a willing host for this proposed incinerator. What happened Monday night was anything but open.

Mr. Anderson came to council attempting to help. But our local councillors sent the message they don't need the Region's help. It would seem their minds are already made up.

-- Clarington This Week