

## **Clarington tells Region they want better offer**

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CLARINGTON -- The Municipality will be willing host to an incinerator but only if the region agrees to Clarington's wish list.

After a lengthy closed-door meeting to discuss host community agreement negotiations, councillors voted 6-1 to accept a resolution that calls on the Region to improve its first offer. The motion says the offer "falls short of recognizing the risk, stigma, direct and indirect costs borne by Clarington in hosting the (incinerator)."

According to the Region's business case, Clarington has been offered about \$10 million as well as some infrastructure work within the proposed Energy Business Park, which abuts the proposed incinerator at Courtice Road and Hwy. 401.

"What they've offered is not acceptable to Clarington," said Ward 4 local councillor Gord Robinson, who moved the motion after council spent more than three-and-a-half hours behind closed doors, hashing it out.

Though he couldn't go into the specifics of what Clarington is seeking, Coun. Robinson did say provisions related to health and environmental safety were included.

This is basically another wish list," Coun. Robinson said. "The Region may turn it down, out and out."

But according to the resolutions, if the Region does what it is asked, "Clarington council is prepared to reconsider its 'unwilling host' stance." But "if (the Region) comes back and says, you're not getting it, I think they're going to have a tough battle the rest of the way," Coun. Robinson said.

Council voted in January that it would not be a willing host to the Region's incinerator.

But Oshawa councillor Brian Nicholson said there is the appearance Clarington is falling for enticements, including road and infrastructure work in the proposed Energy Business Park.

"That's the message we're getting," the regional councillor said. "It doesn't matter that it may not be safe. Put in some roads and we'll roll over for it." There were also concerns raised about the speed with which Clarington councillors were asked to make a decision.

The special meeting of council was called with an agenda indicating there would be a "verbal report" from Clarington CAO Frank Wu on "host community agreement negotiations."

Some councillors weren't aware they would be making decisions.

Instead there should have been a chance to "have gotten the information, have an opportunity to mull that information over and come to a decision at council" next Monday, said Ward 1 local councillor Adrian Foster. Instead, "stuff was just dropped in our laps:"

More time ought to have been given to consider "a decision the Municipality may have to live with for 50 years," Coun. Foster said.