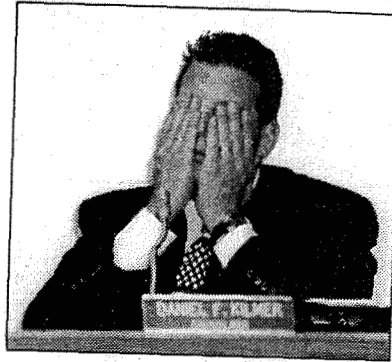


# Town Board hears concerns on CWM industrial waste water treatment issue



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## Landfill Issue

Resident Amy Witryol made a passionate plea to the Town Board concerning the construction of a new CWM landfill near the Niagara Falls Storage Site. Witryol received the loudest round of applause heard in recent memory.

Witryol stated in part, "I hope you will take up the motions I've put before you today -- no Executive session is required for

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any of these under the Open Meetings law.

"I'm asking, after your four months of deliberation, that you act on three motions to protect the health and safety of this community. I will not detail the troubling health statistics and lack of proper testing ... you all know the extraordinary time I've devoted to studying the health and science of the LOOW and CWM. If CWM is successful in constructing a new landfill nearer (to) the Niagara Falls Storage Site, the level of health risk and economic risk to this community would increase exponentially. There is no such thing as the 'status quo' when you are talking about another four million cubic yards of PCBs and other toxic waste being buried even closer to an enormous, nationally notorious, radioactive storage site. It is a ticking time bomb in our community that deserves all of your effort and action."

Addressing individual members, Witryol continued, "Jim, as our elder statesman, I hope you will take up the first motion on spending \$6,000 to join the County Legislature in obtaining specialized advice on what Lewiston's options are to stop a new toxic landfill. I was led to believe Lewiston would partner with the County..."

"Dan, as the financial hawk, please take up the second motion to set aside \$100,000 should the town decide to pursue its options. This sum is less than what has already been spent to speculate on a golf course..."

"Fred, you have promoted the industrial water pre-treatment pro-

gram from the outset, knowing it has support from CWM. Please let the public have access and input. I ask that you take up the third motion for public information and public hearings on the program... There is no proof we are safe, and no excuse for waiting until we have a more obvious epidemic. It is your duty to defend the health and safety of our citizens and the investment of our small business owners.

"This is our town, and this is our fight. No one can sit on the sidelines -- it's time to do more than cheer for the team. Tonight, get off the bench and do something. As I said to you in February, trucks carrying deadly material to CWM, which back up on our I-190 exit ramp, is not my vision of Lewiston, nor is it the vision of most Lewiston residents who strongly oppose another toxic landfill. Instead, please let our vision of Lewiston be one where cars carry people to shop, visit a farmer's market, go to a restaurant or the theater, play golf, go fishing or, to just safely return home from work, to the people and the place that they love... Please love this town enough to fight for it, and show us, starting tonight."

## County Delivers

Niagara County has already contributed \$6,000 towards the hiring of attorney Gary Abraham for the purpose of: 1) analyzing the town's options in connection with the proposed new landfill by CWM, and 2) providing advice regarding the current New York state Department of Health review of its order prohibiting excavation on CWM property.

Newlin told Witryol that at this point he could find \$3,000 to help,

# Resident criticizes Newlin for stand on

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## CWM water treatment proposal

saying that it might not be the last. Ceretto hopes to come up with the extra \$3,000, saying it would be well spent. Ceretto told the meeting this is important and stated, "We have to do what ... is right." Ceretto thanked Witryol for her efforts.

Newlin countered, "We also have to have the money, Mr. Ceretto."

Langlois told the board, "We are talking about hiring an environmental lawyer ... to essentially check to see that the people in the County Department of Health and the DEC ... are doing their job to protect the citizens... Essentially what we are doing [is checking to see if] our officials are doing their job. You could go on spending money indefinitely forever doing that ... I think a modest amount of money is fine, but essentially we are checking on our people that are representing us."

A motion was passed to authorize a \$3,000 expenditure.

Newlin added, referring to the proposed industrial water pre-treatment program, that before it is enacted, there will be a public hearing, a Town Board vote and then it will require DEC approval.

Langlois added, "We authorized the work to be done to get ready for this in case we wanted to do it. I think it was a good decision to have this work done so that if any of these people need to essentially get rid of their effluent we have everything in place for them... I don't think we should get ourselves all tied up in knots that we might be benefiting somebody if the town itself is benefiting from this particular program."

### Witryol Responds

Following the board's decision, Witryol told the *Sentinel*, "Town Council action tonight left Lewiston

residents wondering who they represent -- CWM or us. Residents attending the meeting told me they came away dumbfounded. After four months of deliberation, absent conversation with the proposed attorney, Newlin arbitrarily suggested spending only \$3,000 of the \$6,000 requested. Had Newlin instead proposed the \$6,000 requested, the rest of the board would have supported him. Even Langlois told me that the minor amount of money was not the issue. "In my view, Newlin punished the County Legislature for having done what Lewiston should have done in the first place -- I'm embarrassed for the Town. How will we explain to legislators in Lockport or North Tonawanda or Wheatfield, that they should do more than my town to protect the children in Lew-Port schools?"

Witryol continued, "Overstepping what is normally the role of the Town Board's water liaison, Newlin personally investigated and then led the Board to a March 8 vote in favor of spending \$10,000 on an industrial water pre-treatment program that no one requested except CWM. Newlin ignored no less than three requests since March to halt the development of this program, until all documentation was made available to the public -- as he had promised at the Feb. 23 Town Council meeting. Tonight Newlin refused another request for a public Q & A session on the industrial water issue, saying six months later, 'the genie is out of the bottle.' Well, who let the genie out?"

"Newlin offered only the legally required hearing where residents

can speak but not obtain answers before a board vote. This is the kind of behavior we expect from the DEC, not our town. That Newlin would rather start with only \$3,000 on protecting the town from a toxic and radiological disaster, while voting \$10,000, carte blanche, for an initiative requested solely by CWM, is very troubling. I hope at the upcoming Work Session Newlin will prove my concerns ill-founded by locating the other \$3,000 somewhere among the town's \$700,000 budget surplus, and by instructing all communication between the town or its engineering firm and the DEC to cease, until there is a two-way public discussion on the industrial water treatment issue," Witryol concluded.

### News and Notes

In other news, the town is looking to pursue a contractual relationship with an outside firm to provide engineering services.

And the town is expressing an interest to gain land back from the Power Authority for commercial development.

Citing the New Niagara Bridge Commission building, Newlin stated, "I'd like to see more development up there if possible."

Johnson proposed entertaining a hotel at the top of the spoils area.

A motion was made to establish a sub-committee to assist in the Power Authority negotiations. The Board then realized that a sub-committee already existed but they have never met.

Watch for the next episode of "who's on first" coming soon.