

Moline responds to landfill inquiries

LETTERS AROUND: Councilman receives response letter from Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Ron Moline, sends one to DEC.

BY DAN MINER
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Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Ron Moline responded recently to a letter from City of Tonawanda Councilman Rick Davis about the town's landfill, addressing concerns such as a possible road behind Hackett Drive homes and roughly \$2 million that was transferred out of the landfill fund to pay for the town's totes.

Calling the road "under review with various alternatives," Moline pointed out it was proposed by the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning to connect the proposed North Youngmann Commerce Center with the

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Spaulding Fibre site.

"The road would most likely be a county road, so your questions, concerns and input should be directed to county officials," Moline wrote. "The consensus of county and local officials seems to be that such a road would promote the eventual development of both sites in a compatible manner."

Moline explained that the fund was established almost 20 years ago by the town board for the proper closure and use of the facility. He pointed out there is still about \$5.4 million left from state and town money for the landfill.

"The town board will decide how these resources and any more required will be used for landfill purposes once the

Consent Order is finalized with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation," he wrote.

Davis' letter had called the road "a slap in the face to residents whose properties abut the landfill site by bringing noise and vehicle pollution as well as privacy issues on top of all their other concerns."

He was unmoved by Moline's response.

"The only thing I have to say about that is, whether it's the town or the county's idea, the residents aren't for that road being put behind their homes," he said.

Davis also recently sent a letter to state Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Solid Materials Engineer Mark Hans complaining about recent landfill activities. The return of a bothersome smell, standing water at the

landfill and the loud noise and reverberations of bulldozers at the landfill were subjects of the letter.

"Because of these violations, I am requesting that all landfill operations cease until these violations are addressed, in full," he wrote.

The letter also detailed how a phone number for complaints provided by Ensol, the contractor doing work at the landfill, goes unanswered and messages to that number unreturned.

In other landfill news, a phone conference with county, city and state officials will happen within the next two weeks, Davis said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also said it will release a record of decision and have a public meeting at the end of April.

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