

Buechi, Stephen P LRB

From: Sanders, Bruce I LRB
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 8:34 AM
To: Morrissey, Joan M LRB; Buechi, Stephen P LRB; Karsten, James W LRB; Leithner, Judith S LRB
Cc: Hurley, John S LTC LRB
Subject: FW: Public meeting set for landfill (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Caveats: NONE

From: Sanders, Bruce I LRB
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 8:29 AM
Posted To: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS
Conversation: Public meeting set for landfill
Subject: Public meeting set for landfill

By Dan Miner
The Tonawanda News

North Tonawanda, NY— HANDS TIED: Town cannot close landfill or move storm debris until it gets approval.

by DAN MINER

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City of Tonawanda officials have scheduled an early February informational meeting for residents concerned with the Town of Tonawanda landfill.

Members of the state Department of Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers will be requested to attend, said Mayor Ron Pilozzi.

"Our job as I see it is to protect the safety and welfare of people in the City of Tonawanda and we're doing our best to do that," said City of Tonawanda Mayor Ron Pilozzi.

Pilozzi had a meeting Tuesday with Town Councilman Joseph Emminger and Town Attorney Daniel Cavarello, City of Tonawanda officials, Erie County Legislator Michele Iannello, D-Kenmore, members of the Department of Conservation and a representative from state Assemblyman Robin Schimminger's office.

"We went through the issues that effect the residents," Pilozzi said. "The height, odor situations and what is the closure plan?"

An informational letter will be sent to residents near the landfill before the meeting to familiarize them with the issues, Pilozzi said.

"As city officials dealing with the town dump, there's only so much we can do," said City Councilman Rick Davis, who plans to send flyers to fourth ward residents about the meeting. "Residents' voices will play a huge part in this."

Concern has been building in the last several months among city residents who live near the landfill, initially because of strong odors in adjacent areas due to debris put there during the Oct. 12 storm. Recently, visible mounds rising as the town prepares to cap the landfill have caused consternation.

The town has submitted a plan to the DEC to move the debris, said John Camilleri, director of the Department of Wastewater Resources and the person supervising the landfill's closure. The plan, which was formulated with the DEC, will likely be approved but nothing is official yet, he said.

The town is also waiting on the Army Corps of Engineers to finalize a study before they will know how high the capped landfill will eventually be and what it will be used for, Camilleri said. ?????? The Army Corps is investigating the site for radioactive contamination from materials dumped by the federal government during its early atomic energy program.

"We can't do the official closure until we get approval from DEC and we can't get a final plan because we don't know what's going to happen when the Army Corps renders an official decision," he said. "If it was up to us we would have closed the landfill long ago and this would all be over."

Camilleri said he was surprised at both how long the Army Corps has taken with the study and at criticisms from city officials. "The town has been communicating with them on this issue, and that's not always how it sounds," he said.

The exact date of the meeting has yet to be announced.

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Injustice is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice.

--H.L. Mencken

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