



Geneva City Council
Agenda Item Briefing

To: Geneva City Council
From: Clr. Camera
Meeting Date: May 6, 2020
Item Title: Ontario County Landfill Compensation Resolution

Action Required:

Review and passage of the Resolution.

Background:

Persistent odors and harmful emissions. Significant large truck traffic along major City Streets.

Alternative:

None.

Financial Impact:

For City Council to discuss \$ amount from County as compensation for negative economic and health impacts.

Attachments:

Draft resolution

4th Ward City Councilor Robert “Ken” Camera

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RESOLUTION # 22 - 2020
Ontario County Landfill Compensation Resolution
City of Geneva, NY

This resolution pertains to the Ontario County Landfill operation located in the Town of Seneca, Flint, NY and is designed to recognize a rogue operation that is in violation of its stated agreements with the County and State of NY and its residents. It furthermore focuses on the particularly greater burden of its odor pattern and environmental impacts on the City and Town of Geneva.

Whereas the two most visible impacts of the landfill are the persistence of odors sweeping over the Geneva Community and the pattern of truck traffic that uses our local and state roads to transport the municipal and other forms of solid waste.

Whereas the remedies and proposed solutions over the last several years have at best been good publicity but essentially ineffective in remedying the negative impacts on the region.

Whereas the continuous impact of odors and emissions are violate the management contract between the County of Ontario and Casella going back many years.

Whereas on 2/5/2020 the County's legal team reported to the County Planning and Environmental Quality Committee that Casella Waste Services violated its permit and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation law regarding air quality at the landfill citing 41 instances of outdoor air quality exceeding the acceptable standard over a period of less than four months, from late September 2019 to mid-January 2020. The excessive hydrogen sulfide odor — a rotten egg smell — is blamed on landfill construction and installation of a new gas collection system (Daily Messaenger, Julie Sherwood).

Whereas the impacts on property and health and life in the area is tangible and measureable and well documented in the ItStinks.org website that shows over 900 individual odor complaints registered by Ontario County residents and others over the last year.

Ontario County Landfill

April, 2020: 26 complaints
March, 2020: 46 complaints
February, 2020: 127 complaints
January, 2019: 43 complaints
December, 2019: 45 complaints
November, 2019: 31 complaints
October, 2019: 29 complaints
September, 2019: 53 complaints
August, 2019: 35 complaints
July, 2019: 49 complaints
June, 2019: 31 complaints
May, 2019: 43 complaints
April, 2019: 189 complaints
March, 2019: 199 complaints

Total: 946
Avg. per month: (920 complaints / 13 full months) = 70.0

Whereas most recently the state Department of Environmental Conservation issued a new notice of violation April 10 (FLTimes, 4/17/2020) citing excessive hydrogen sulfide emissions at the landfill off Routes 5&20 during the first quarter of this year. According to the DEC report, hydrogen sulfide monitoring from Jan. 17 to March 27 cited 48 additional instances of the landfill exceeding the air-quality standard of 10 parts per billion. The highest one-hour average was 100 parts per billion Jan. 20.

Whereas it is relevant and appropriate that Casella receives compensation for its tipping fees and shares ~\$1.307 millions/year with the County in general, this payment does not recognize the special and concentrated impacts/burden on the quality of life, economic health and beauty/character of the Geneva municipalities downwind of the landfill.

Therefore, Now, be it Resolved that the City Geneva deserves special reparations both in arrears, on-going, and for future negative impacts expected from the landfill including but not limited to: traffic, odor, health and environmental safety by virtue of being an unwilling host for the landfill via it being a municipal member of the County government.