

Equity urges fast decision on site plan meeting

By LISA TALLYN
Staff writer

Larry Hurley, chief executive officer of Equity Waste Management, told councillors Monday night Equity experienced a lot of unnecessary delays and abuse over the past 14 months and urged them to get on with a site plan meeting for their application.

Equity is proposing a composting facility on Steeles Ave. in Hornby.

Hurley addressed Councillors Moya Johnson, John Day and Keith Bottomley (the only three councillors without a conflict of interest on the Equity issue as they aren't named in a \$6-million lawsuit launched by the company). He said Equity representatives have had to sit back while council was turned into a circus by a delegation (HERO — Hornby East Ratepayers Organization) which has appeared at least 16 times.

"Mr. Chairman (John Day), we are not faulting you or the two other councillors, as you are new on the job. We must be honest. We are concerned about the manipulation and direction by others who have agendas and motives which are counter productive to the process," Hurley continued.

Hurley explained Equity was concerned the portion of Bill 163 which affects the municipal conflict of interest act, sets down new guidelines relating to the number of members of council required to form a quorum.

Under the current guidelines two councillors represent a quorum, Hurley said under the new act five Halton Hills councillors would be required to form a quorum.

"You do not have five members who can vote on our applications," said Hurley. "This section of Bill 163 is scheduled to be implemented on April 15, only two weeks from now."

"Are the 15 or more new full-time jobs which this project will create over the next year not important. Is our contribution to the tax base of Halton Hills not needed," said Hurley.

"How are you going to attract further industrial development to Halton Hills when you receive this kind of attention," said Hurley.



LARRY HURLEY



J. LUNN STEWART

Hurley asked councillors to direct the planning staff to complete the updates of the planning reports by the end of the week, schedule a site plan/special council meeting before Monday, April 10, and direct the administration to prepare the site plan agreement so it can be signed before the April 15 deadline.

"If council fails to act, notwithstanding the pending deadline posed by Bill 163, one must question the motives for Halton Hills lack of action," said Hurley.

Hurley explained after his presentation the town has had Equity's site plan since March 1 and the normal processing time for a

site plan application should be four weeks.

In his explanation of why council does not yet have the full updated report on Equity, town director of planning Bruce MacLean said the objective is to complete a timely report that also reviews the full intent of the 401 corridor study.

"The report should be back (before councillors) by the end of April for debate. Who debates it is another matter," said MacLean.

Day said Halton Hills is not closed for business and the Equity matter is being handled expeditiously.

Town clerk Janet Lunn Stewart said Thursday under the current municipal act a quorum must be at least two councillors. After April 15 Lunn Stewart said she understands five councillors (not less than a third of council,) will be required for a quorum. A report to council on that issue is expected Monday night.

Lunn Stewart added she understands there is a provision in Bill 163 that if a council can't meet quorum requirements an application can be made to the local disclosure commissioner for relief.

"The conflict (of interest) will be acknowledged but the entire council would be able to deal with the issue," said Lunn Stewart. She said as the legislation is new she isn't certain how long the application process would take.

She added the 401 corridor site plan committee, consisting of Johnson, Day and Bottomley, should still be able to consider the Equity site plan matter because under the new rules, a quorum of that board (not less than a third of that body) would be not less than two.



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TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

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Have a Happy Easter!



1 HALTON HILLS DRIVE, P.O. BOX 125, HALTON HILLS, (Georgetown) ONTARIO L7G 9G7 (905) 875-2000

Happy 45th Birthday Pooh-Bob



Love Alexandra