

Puslinch mayor says Milton handling disagreement inappropriately and wants to continue negotiating

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project until next year and will pursue the creation of a boundary road agreement between the two municipalities that would outline who's responsible for what. There's no timeline for when that agreement would be created.

Mayor Gord Krantz said he thinks Milton has been "more than fair" with its offer to help pay for the road.

He said if need be, Milton will pursue arbitration — a costly process in itself — to solve the impasse.

"It's not a threat but we've got to get on and sort this out," he said in an interview. "I'm not about to push this immediately, but now that Milton council has shown it's not interested in the way things have been presented, they (Puslinch) should go back and rethink this."

"If you want to remain good friends, you want to share things." Mr. Krantz said Milton has never gone to arbitration with another municipality before and sees arbitration with Puslinch as a "last resort."

But Puslinch Mayor Brad Whitcombe is bothered by how the situation has unfolded.

"They walked away from the table for \$17,000 and they're talking about going to arbitration? That's fine. What's the retainer going to be for a solicitor?"

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BRAD WHITCOMBE

He said he wasn't aware until told by a reporter that Milton turned down his council's offer and that Milton decided to defer the entire project until next year.

"We sent our position in writing and awaited their response," he said. "They didn't give us the courtesy to tell us about that."

Mr. Whitcombe was "disappointed" to hear Mr. Krantz considered arbitration as a potential solution.

"I don't think that's appropriate to handle a municipal discussion," he said.

He said he proposed to Milton that the interest rate of 2.5 per cent be cut in half, but it was turned down. The difference in the rate, he said, amounted to about \$17,000.

"They walked away from the table for \$17,000 and they're talking about going to arbitration? That's fine." Mr. Whitcombe said. "What's the retainer going to be for a solicitor?"

In the end, he hopes talks will resume. "I hope the Town will reconsider their position and come talk to us."

Mr. Krantz said the disagreement speaks to the bigger issue that a road boundary agreement needs to be in place. With a new Municipal Act enacted in January, Mr. Krantz said staff would have to look at how to create such an agreement based on changes to the act.

Mr. Whitcombe said Puslinch is open to such an agreement. "We're in favour of discussing a road agreement."

Milton has road boundary agreements with Oakville, Burlington, Halton Hills and Mississauga.

Jason Misner can be reached at jmisner@miltoncanadian-champion.com.

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