

'MAYORS' IN PROTEST GROUP

Though the motion passed in council, a Facebook group "Hydrovac Protest Group" was started Tuesday. The page has former mayor Sue Sherban as an administrator and Mayor Justin Altmann as a member.

The 466-member group is most concerned with the addition of vac trucks as they "believe the waste and fill from hydrovac trucks pose a danger to our environment and well water," the group description reads.

At the council meeting, Altmann expressed similar doubts while asking town staff if they could guarantee no contaminants would be in the vac trucks.

Altmann did not respond to the Sun-Tribune for comment.



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

-Ali Raza United Soils is on Ninth Line, north of Bloomington Road.

Hargrave concerned with pit

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-cil meeting. "The sorting is being done in a pit that currently is open, groundwater to one of the main aquifers in York Region that flows south. The Stouffville water tower is in direct line of that. What guarantee do we have that there isn't any leeching? Or if there's an accident? We don't."

The site is a former gravel pit and is owned by United Soils on behalf of Hummel Holdings Inc. The original fill management plan was set up with bylaw 2014-101-RE to import clean fill.

Cloke says "the process and protocol that was approved in 2014 ... has not changed." But Hargrave disagrees.

After some calculations, Hargrave told council that United Soils was set to earn \$4.1 million in revenue as a result of the amendment. But Cloke says the numbers are "nowhere near the truth."

The amendment outlines that small quantity sources will "represent less than five per cent of the total annual quantity of fill accepted at the site" and hydro-excavation trucks will "represent less than one per cent of the total annual quantity of fill."

Cloke says that although the town permits United Soils to import up to 600 trucks of total fill per day, he anticipates the small source and vac trucks will only number between 40 to 70 truckloads a day.

"Whatever trucks come into here will be folded into those numbers, it's not an add-

on," Cloke stressed.

But Hargrave isn't convinced, saying "the town didn't do its due diligence" at the council meeting.

'We've allowed the material to come in, we are liable.'

"I'd like to see some reassurance from the Ministry of the Environment," Hargrave said. "If there is a problem, the liability falls back on the property owner and then the town. We've allowed the material to come in, we are liable."

Cloke, however, insists the operation is clean and that he's been in talks with the Ministry of the Environment regarding the vac trucks.

"There are no tricks here," he said. "The fill that comes in isn't contaminated. The rules with my company and the town are that the town inspector doesn't have to phone ahead, he gets to walk into our office and go through our files at will, whenever he feels like doing it."

Cloke says councillors were invited to four information sessions. Two were public and took place June 23 at town hall and June 30 at 14245 Ninth Line. Two sessions in March and April were meetings between United Soils and town staff, consultants and councillors at United Soils' Stouffville office at 6043 Main St.



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