

Mayor, council:

March 12, 2018

I'd like to speak to the issue of the Nelson agreement and to remind you once again that you, as a council, have a responsibility to represent the residents of this Township, not Nelson Aggregates.

I question how you can possibly sign off on this agreement tonight when it wasn't even available to the public on the website until this afternoon, and in speaking to my ward councillor today, I found out it was only made available to him this morning. Surely not time enough to make such an important decision. Even in a quick read through I noticed Barb Kane's name is still included in section 5.2, and there is no date on it, what else is wrong? Obviously this agreement is NOT ready to sign.

I have a number of issues that I believe need serious consideration. To begin with, on page 11 of the OMB decision, the chair emphasized that any amendment to the plan - proposed operating hours for example - should "satisfy the Township and the neighbourhood property owners". He personally emphasized that in bold letters. It seems obvious that the neighbourhood property owners will not be happy with the pit operations beginning at 6 every morning. Councillor Rose mentioned at the last meeting that he had thought shorter hours were agreed upon, and indeed they were previously tabled for a 7am start daily, and a 1 pm closing on Saturdays, but that had been changed. Obviously Nelson prefers longer hours, but this is a negotiation and council should stand firm for its residents and demand shorter hours. We are in a good bargaining position here because Nelson is in a hurry, but we have no need to be. Please take another look at the hours of operation, which will affect the daily lives of many people for the next 20 years.

Another really important point is our financial protection and guarantee that all the provisions of the agreement are complied with. This is supposed to come in the form of a performance bond. The OMB chair pointed out on page 12 of his decision that this agreement must include a performance guarantee. He quoted this from our own official plan. I have seen no sign of this in any of the draft agreements, and it is such an integral thing for our protection. Please make sure that we get a performance bond for at least \$20 million to guarantee that this pit will not cost this community financially in any way in the future.

At the March 2nd meeting, I'm sure I heard Nelson representative, Quinn Moyer say that Nelson would pay 100% of the costs necessary to bring Side road 5 up to standards for a haul route, but I see this nowhere on the agreement. Are we just going to trust Nelson on this?

Then there is still the question of the Municipal Drain. A lack of proper paperwork is not proof that something doesn't exist, especially in this Township where we have numerous examples of missing information. Even the OPP, in their September 2016 Post Retirement Benefits report, mentioned over and over again that there were "record retention issues within the corporation". That was regarding information that should have been filed in the last 10 years, this drain information goes back possibly 60 or 70 years. It seems to me that a little more digging could be done to find out the truth in this matter.

We obviously still have plenty of work to do to ensure a fair and equitable agreement for our Township, please defer this decision until we have it. Thank you.

Annette Bays