



October 4, 2011

HCM Council Members,

## **RE: Decision Making Process & Bylaw**

Once again, our view of the public consultation process by local council is nothing but an illusion of public involvement. Council asks for input, promptly chooses to ignore it, and proceeds down what appears to be a pre-determined path. We have participated in this process three times now in relation to garbage and landfill sites within the municipality, all with the same result.

At the public meeting held August 12<sup>th</sup>, I specifically asked council whether there would be additional opportunity for input prior to any direction being shaped. In response, Councilor Gibson responded 'YES'. We now find ourselves with a draft bylaw, which has been through two readings, and scheduled for a third and final reading at the council meeting of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Yes, there is a public meeting just prior, but it would appear council's direction is set and this public meeting is primarily for dissemination of information versus further input.

Let us recap. Council has openly stated in the past that they are pleased with the success of our recycling program, and we have clearly demonstrated approximately 40% diversion which is better than the municipal average. Why then does council feel the need to impose significant operational restrictions through the mandated use of clear bags at significant additional cost to commercial operators? What are we to do with black garbage bags inadvertently dropped off? How can we police every customer and force them to use clear kitchen bags for their daily waste? Do we need to hire a full time garbage room attendant, and if so, is anybody on council looking for a job? I would like to personally invite all council members as well as our municipal clerk to come down to 'camp school' during a busy summer weekend so you may be enlightened on some of the unique challenges we face. And perhaps you can help us sort garbage at the same time, because it appears council knows what is best for our garbage & recycling efforts better than we do.

The white paper circulated prior to the August public meeting suggested council was to formulate a comprehensive waste management plan. A number of comments were brought forward in that public meeting including, but limited to:

1. Due to geographic size and scope, the township is not mandated to participate in the recycling program, contrary to what the white paper eludes to.

2. Life expectancy of the current landfill sites seems to be anybody's best guess, and there is no imminent threat of closure, contrary to what the white paper eludes to.
3. There exists an opportunity to expand our current landfill sites and that process has not yet started, a blatant omission from the white paper.
4. There is no business case available which illustrates the cost of recycling versus dumping it all 'in the hole'.
5. There was a question whether recycled glass should even be included due to the cost of transportation.
6. There is no breakdown between the landfill operational costs directly associated with volume versus overhead costs and provincially mandated cover independent of volume.
7. There is no factual data suggesting what percentage of volume comes from commercial operators versus residents, but only commercial operators are being targeted with new costs
8. I have participated in two bag-tag programs with previous municipalities which were subsequently abandoned. Has anyone investigated these programs which did not work and why?

Without some review of the above topics and the associated comprehensive waste management plan, it is clear that council's primary mandate is not waste diversion as stated in the white paper, but rather looking for a quick method for driving increased revenue through taxing the commercial operators.

In addition, any capital costs associated with landfill expansion should be amortized over the lifespan of the landfill, and not buried within annual waste management budget numbers (including any engineering costs associated with expansion).

In summary, I again state that we are deeply disappointed with council's latest direction as well as the arrogance of council and the municipal clerk on how it will affect local business. We have shown a desire to work with council; however, council has shown no desire to work with us.

Regards,

Todd Dowser  
Morning Mist Resort Inc.