



Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

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Mayor Vance Blackmore
Southwest Middlesex
153 McKellar Street
Glencoe, Ontario
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Wednesday, November 22, 2017

RE: Legal Representation / Ministry of the Environment Order

Dear Mayor Blackmore,

I am writing today to bring your attention to a decision that I recently made in regard to legal representation for your municipality. As you know, Mr. Wayne Meagher provided legal advice to your municipality for an issue related to your landfill. In my role as CAO of the County of Middlesex, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that all employees are in compliance with applicable legislation and for our legal department specifically, I review the legal file list to ensure that there are no potential conflicts that might put our insurance in jeopardy or create a legal conflict between the various parties that Mr. Meagher represents.

During recent conversations with you and Ms. Bellchamber-Glazier, it became evident that the Southwest Middlesex Council had made a determination that on the surface appears to contradict a direct order from the Ministry of the Environment for remediation of the landfill site. Intentional or not, the decision to not immediately follow the order by the Ministry of the Environment has created an extremely difficult position from a number of perspectives (insurance, legal representation and individual and corporate liability).

From a legal perspective I unfortunately can no longer permit Mr. Meagher to represent your municipality in this matter. I did not come to this decision lightly. However, I hope that based upon our conversations you understand the severity of this situation and as a result, why I must have Mr. Meagher withdraw.

I sincerely hope that your Council will change course and immediately address the order. The moment that your council has taken the necessary steps to accomplish the goals of the Ministry order, we would be more than pleased to have Mr. Meagher represent your municipality on this matter once again.

Yours truly,

Bill Rayburn