

Clarington sets out its terms on incinerator

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By Jennifer Stone

CLARINGTON -- If you're going to do it, do it right, Clarington has told the Region.

The Municipality set out its terms for staff to begin negotiations with the regions of Durham and York, aimed at a host community agreement, should the two regions decide to accept a consultant's recommendation to site an incinerator in Courtice.

But, say councillors, that oughtn't be confused with willingness to host -- a decision which can't yet be made, they say.

The motion, which came forward Monday, "addresses many of the concerns we have heard from our residents," said Mayor Jim Abernethy, reading from a prepared statement.

But giving staff direction to have those discussions only "authorizes staff to enter into discussions and gives a framework to the Region as to what is expected," said Councillor Willie Woo. "There is no mention in this resolution of being a willing host or an unwilling host."

In spite of calls by many members of the public to declare itself an unwilling host, Clarington has not done so, with council members saying they need to wait for site-specific information before determining willingness.

That's something that the Region needs to understand, said Councillor Adrian Foster.

"This is not in any way, shape or form an endorsement of the project here in Clarington," said the Courtice councillor, who pushed "regional councillors and you, Mr. Mayor, to make it abundantly clear" to the Region that this is not a statement of willingness.

"This motion is in no way meant to be an indication of whether we are a willing host or an unwilling host ... Our position has been since the beginning that we need to get all the information before we make a decision," he said.

Regional council is expected to make a decision on whether to accept the consultants' recommended Courtice site, near Hwy. 401 and Courtice Road, in January.