

The following is Gritt Koehl's analysis of what went on at the November 6, 2018 Council meeting ([Transcription of Council Proceeding](#)).

FACT #1

CAO Brooks: "***With regards to the WWTP capacity, there's a bit of a misnomer on there that there's no capacity left at the plant.***" Brooks made this comment in response to Deputy Mayor Arthur's summary. NOWHERE in Arthur's comments did she say there was NO capacity at the plant. She stated that the Township itself does not yet know the remaining capacity at the WWTP, and Brooks confirmed that. Capacity information should be available in December once Online Services has completed repairs to reduce infiltration issues.

POINT MADE: Remaining WWTP capacity needs to be known, before going ahead with multi-million dollar projects.

FACT #2

The SBS has not had a camera inspection of the system since clumps of wire were removed in 2015 and 2017. Arthur has been requesting that the system be videoed, so that the Township can see if all problems have been cleared. Arthur asked Operations Manager Jeff Hoskin if that has been done yet. His reply: "***No it has not Deputy Mayor.***" There have been no further problems (blockages) with the SBS since removal of the wire.

POINT MADE: SBS is working for the 10 facilities hooked up. Why spend millions of dollars to replace it when the system is only 14 years old and should have a lifespan of between 30 - 50 years?

FACT #3

There is "very limited capacity" at the WWTP beyond what is already "on the books". This was revealed to the Township in PLAN 40-17 (December 19, 2017 Council Agenda). This item was to approve a Plan of Subdivision for Lilly's Court (now Foxridge) development. "***Township retained D.M. Wills to conduct a review of the existing sanitary users and available waste water treatment plant capacity for development. The D.M. Wills report dated December 5, 2017 notes that there is sufficient capacity for the committed developments, infills and industrial/commercial developments. However, there will be very limited capacity available following this development. As recommended by the report, Township will confirm the capacity as part of the development approval process prior to additional development being permitted to be serviced from the existing sanitary system.***" What this means is that there is not enough capacity for The Big Apple's proposed expansion, nor for Fidelity's plan to expand the Foxridge subdivision beyond what has been approved, never mind any unknown future development.

POINT MADE: Knowing that there is very limited capacity at the WWTP, why spend millions of dollars on sewer pipes, until capacity at the WWTP is addressed?

FACT #4 - Councillor Tim Gilligan: "***I think like Sandra said, that we should defer this until Council is on board basically to review all the information in light of new information.***"

Councillor Ed Van Egmond: "***I don't understand the new information Tim...***"

FACT #5

That's right Councillor Van Egmond. You don't understand the new information, because you haven't taken the time to read about:

- Trent and Ganaraska Source Water Protection Plans which came into effect on January 1, 2015 that directly impact the Industrial Park and the surrounding Well Head Protection Areas
- Natural Heritage and Agricultural Systems Mapping that were enacted by the Province on February 9, 2018 that directly impact the proposed route up Elgin
- Clearford's Report from July 2017 which was not shared with Council

And if you have read some of it, then you are refusing to acknowledge this new information. You continue with the same old rhetoric, without thought to what you say.

In fact, what you said at Tuesday's meeting could be considered slander, and now libel, by Clearford. You claim that the SBS "***is a terrible system; that it doesn't work and hasn't worked since day one.***" You go on to say that "***Clearford is still the same company, the same people as the original company***" (Innovative Water and Sewage Systems Inc.).

Well, I can tell you that I spoke directly with the CEO and COO of Clearford Water Systems in October, and when I queried statements made by the Township that the company was a change in name only, the CEO stated that it is indeed different people.

Furthermore, Cramahe's CAO disputes your statement that the SBS doesn't work and hasn't worked since day one, saying that the SBS works and is applied everywhere.

Wow, you are certainly opening yourself up to a potential slander and libel suit. I am including a link here explaining what that is:

[**Libel, Slander and Defamation**](#)

FACT #6

The EA & Engineering studies have a completion deadline of March 31, 2021. CAO Brooks wants to get the studies finished so the township can collect the funding for the EA & Engineering studies. Coombs went on to say that work is weather dependent, so if they don't proceed now it would have to wait until spring, to which Brooks replied "**Yes**". Well, the township has until March 31, 2021 to complete the studies, so plenty of time to

address the many questions that have arisen as a result of new information, and questions which the draft EA does not adequately address.

FACT #7

Coombs stated "***And also the Clearford system when it was put in, um I was not on Council that made that decision, but – it was meant to be a short-term relatively short-term solution. It wasn't meant to be a permanent solution to the problems of servicing the Industrial Park.***" This statement made by Marc Coombs, is his own opinion, and does NOT reflect the logic/decision of Council in 2003, under then Mayor Lee Dekeyser. Mr. Dekeyser told us the reason the SBS was installed, instead of a LBS, was due to two factors. 1) There wasn't enough capacity at the WWTP. 2) It was a more cost effective way of providing some sewer services to customers in the Industrial Park.

FACT #8

Coombs stated "***And the Industrial Park has grown enormously since that system was put in, and that's put a lot of pressure on the SBS, and the purpose of the full sewer to the 401 area is really for future development, as well as relieve the issue with the small bore right now, and that's the driving factor behind the whole Environmental Assessment process and having to put in a full sewer up there.***"

The Industrial Park has had some new development, and indeed it has put a lot of pressure on the SBS, because the Township of Cramahe allowed **Wet** Industries into a **Dry** Industrial Park. Nobody "has" to put in a full sewer up there. This is Crisis Creation to further an agenda. The SBS has been working fine since the wire was removed.

FACT #9

Recorded vote - Motion Carried

Against

Deputy Mayor Arthur
Councillor Gilligan

For

Councillor Clark
Mayor Coombs
Councillor Van Egmond

Nobody can dispute that it is the same three Council members that always vote together. Why did this occur on this vote, when Council members have been presented with new information and facts over the past few months, especially since the draft Environmental Assessment does not adequately address Environmental issues?

FACT #10

The CLEARFORD REPORT dated July 28, 2017 was NEVER presented to Council. It was attached as a schedule to the D.M. Wills EA Report on September 18, 2018 with merely a mention. In fact, the only briefing that Council got from CAO Brooks was a short comment to the effect that the Clearford assessment showed that the SBS was at capacity. NOTHING ELSE! And even that statement by Brooks is not entirely true because key points were left out. We could drag up the recording from that meeting back in 2017, but it would take quite a bit of time to find it, since it was simply a comment tossed out by Brooks in passing. Reporter John Campbell questioned the Chair why the report was not brought to Council. Mayor Marc Coombs replied that **“Council never asked for it.”** I for one am utterly speechless over this comment by Coombs. Council should not have to ask for it. It should just have been brought forward for information. It was a substantial report after all. Alex Saunders, a resident of Cramahe and supporter of our work, appeared as a delegation to Council on June 6, 2017 and asked a number of questions relating to the SBS and proposed LBS extension. Coombs replied later with some answers, but no answers to the key questions. See Saunder's Ombudsman complaint [Sewer Ombudsman Complaint \(October 2017\)](#) for information on his delegation to Council and subsequent emails to the CAO that went unanswered.

FACT #11

CAO BROOKS IS SPEAKING A DIFFERENT STORY. We have never heard CAO Brooks state any of this before Reporter John Campbell raised the following at Tuesday's meeting:

Campbell: **“Anything that Clearford has said in the time since then, nothing that they proposed would have altered the capacity of the system? No matter what sort of work they suggested was not going to...”**

Brooks: **“No, I think they made some suggestion that they could up size the system that existed there. In a report they alluded to that, but they didn't give any specifics on that.”**

Campbell: **“So is that something that could have been explored further with that company then, and come in as a cheaper alternative then?”**

Brooks: **“It still can to be quite honest.”**

FACT #12

Coombs stated: **“...Anybody can file an Ombudsman complaint, so I don't think the business of Council can stop every time somebody does that.”** In my opinion - this is a disrespectful statement for the outgoing Mayor to have made. Not only is it

disrespectful to the Ombudsman, but it shows complete disdain for the right of citizens to file complaints against their government! That is a constitutional right Marc Coombs. Furthermore, this Council should not have approved anything further on the EA until the outcome of the Ombudsman investigation.

FACT #13

Cramahe resident Doug Harrison made some comments during Public Question Period. Doug regularly attends Council meetings and we respect and appreciate his input. In this case, we have to challenge him on his comments because he may not have all of the facts, just what he's been told.

HARRISON: "Now regarding the small bore system. On October 14 or 15, there were 11 tour buses parked at the Big Apple. That's 300 to 400 people using the washroom. And yet Clearford proposes to service this facility with a small bore system? With a pumping station to accommodate the topography? And for only \$1 million? And of course they don't know how the tracer wire got inside the pipe in the first place. Staff was justified in ignoring them. Unfortunately it should have been done long ago."

Well Doug...

- 1) Clearford has NOT proposed anything of the sort, because they have not been asked to provide solutions. Furthermore, The Big Apple is clearly able to accommodate all the crap generated at its' facility through its' septic system (upgraded recently I believe).
- 2) The pumping station was part of the 2003 proposal for the SBS to accommodate The Big Apple. It was The Big Apple that opted OUT of connecting to the SBS, even though they were the driving force to get sewers up there. No different than today.
- 3) Clearford's \$1 million figure was provided as a rough figure, with absolutely no mention of a pumping station. In fact Clearford has stated that they were trying to be helpful to the Township by suggesting some solutions going forward.
- 4) Clearford inherited the SBS, they did not install the SBS - Innovative did. Clearford has looked at the schematics and plans from the original project and there was no wire mentioned in the installation of the SBS. Maybe more information will come forward on this in the near future.
- 5) Cramahe staff was NOT justified in ignoring them. Staff was NOT justified in keeping the report from ALL Council Members.

FACT #14

When the SBS was approved back in 2003 to be installed in 2004, residents along the route and businesses in the Cramahe Industrial Park, were sent a letter "offering" to have them connect to the SBS. NO residents hooked up (it would have cost them

\$16,000), and ONLY 5 out of approx. 25 - 27 businesses connected. They had working septic systems that were a LOT cheaper than sewers, so why would they connect???

The situation is no different today. Are people living along the route, or businesses in the Industrial Park, going to be forced to connect? Based on past experience, I think we know the answer to that.

FACT #15

Mayor-Elect Mandy Martin has hired a lawyer to be on top of this situation. Kudos to the new Mayor.

NEVER has anyone from the Township, the "other side" of the Council, nor Township staff, reached out to combat / contradict / dispute / or dispel anything that we have posted. That speaks volumes. Cramahé Township - you can't ignore the truth and the facts...