

January 9, 2017

Mayor Chet Olson
City Manager David Plyman
Members of the Rochelle City Council

Mayor, City Manager and Members of the City Council,

As negotiations for the landfill resume in 2017, as past council members, we think it is important to provide a historical perspective on how the previous council reached the landfill expansion agreement that is currently in place.

Early 2000s: William Charles expressed interest in expanding the landfill

2005-2006: Discussions on expansion started

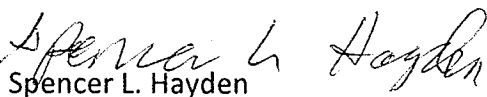
February 2007: Formal hearing was held at Hickory Grove; after daily hearings that lasted two weeks. Council agreed to expand landfill with 37 special conditions in place. The agreement was sent to the IEPA and they recommended minor changes.

April 28, 2008: Council approved the revised agreement with a 7-0 vote.

Throughout the hearings, the majority of the council was only willing to agree to the expansion of the landfill if Unit 1 was exhumed, and without that, it was doubtful that any expansion would have passed. Community members from Rochelle and Creston were concerned about the modern technology to be used with Unit 2; however, the council had a much greater fear of the limited technology used in the early 1970s when Unit 1 was opened. Council felt that if Unit 1 was exhumed and constructed with current technology, the protection of the water supply would be greatly improved compared to leaving it in its current state. Exhumation of Unit 1 and its subsequent update to current technology was imperative and considered to be the best of both worlds. It was commonly understood that the exhumation would be created strong odors, but felt that winter construction would reduce the odor problem. When William Charles agreed to exhumation of Unit 1, the council was willing to grant expansion assuming all special conditions were also met. While the landfill ownership has changed hands, the agreement bound any future landowners to also meet these conditions that were previously agreed upon.

We urge you to reflect back on the experts' testimony and information shared from the landfill expansion hearings as you consider reopening the negotiations of the landfill agreement. The information shared about the changes in technology in the last 30 years was clear that the owner of the landfill needs to be mindful of how the water supply is being impacted. Even though the landfill ownership has changed hands and the current owner's testing shows no leakage is present in the last five years, we must think of the next 100 years when making decisions for the greater Rochelle and Creston communities.

Sincerely,


Spencer L. Hayden


Dennis Berg


Dave Eckhardt


Pal Colwill


Ed Kissick