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2018 Municipal Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Tony Mintoff Municipality Tiny

Date: September 30, 2018

Please return the completed questionnaire to the sender as soon as possible, but no later than October 4, 2018. **N.B: As this is a Word document, you can take as much space as you wish to respond.** The answers will be posted on the AWARE Simcoe website.

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1. Water is a finite resource. Do you feel there is a need to protect water, wetlands and recharge areas from development, aggregate extraction and other intrusive activities in your municipality? If so, how will you achieve this?

ANSWER

I certainly do. I think it is important to state my position on the Teedon pit license renewal application. I sat through a number of council meetings, during which numerous residents expressed their concerns about how this operation, under the ownership of Beamish, was affecting their wells.

I seem to recall that the old license only permitted the taking of gravel but Beamish was washing gravel without any Ministry approval. Beamish was also known to operate beyond the hours permitted by their license.

So now, Dufferin Aggregates has taken ownership of the site. I suppose they shouldn't be held responsible for issues that occurred prior to the ownership change, but I still have the same opinion about this gravel pit.

I have seen firsthand some of the samples of water from nearby wells that were cloudy, murky, and silty. Residents clearly stated that this was a recent development as they had no problems with their water before.

Of course, the consulting engineers' reports say there is no legitimate concern for a decrease in the quality or volume of water available from this aquifer, even though they hope to draw millions of litres for 220 days per year.

I'm afraid that I don't buy their assurances. They are far removed from the potential disaster if they are wrong, which wouldn't be the first time, and quite frankly, they have no skin in the game. They, nor their families, will be impacted if they are wrong this time.

I will fully support a decision to deny the renewal of their license at this location, and any actions required to achieve this result.

It makes no sense to gamble on the future of such a pure and valuable resource.

I also think we should investigate the practicality of metering water in Tiny, as is done with every other type of utility. I believe that flat rate schemes can lead to wasted resources.

2. Development charges never fully cover the cost of new development. Will you make sure that all costs that *should be* paid by development charges under existing legislation *are* covered? When considering an application, on what basis will you decide whether a development is a net benefit for the community?

ANSWER

Development charges are very important to the financial well-being of any municipality. They should be fully collected unless some form of reduction can serve as an incentive for businesses or environmentally-friendly light industry to locate in Tiny thereby providing additional employment opportunities for residents or other improvements to quality of life.

3. Do you support/oppose expansion of the Greenbelt into Simcoe County? In either case, please explain why.

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I'm not well-enough versed in the matter and can't offer an educated response at this time. If I understand the question correctly, I would say that limiting development opportunities in order to protect greenspace needs to be balanced to reflect the needs of the community as well, but that the protection of our natural features is essential.

4. Simcoe County Council chose a county forest in Springwater – zoned Agricultural – as the site for a (needed) waste handling facility, the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre. Springwater Township objected, pointing out that this is an industrial use and there are suitable properties zoned Industrial. What is your view?

ANSWER

I believe that if there are more environmentally suitable locations, and zoned accordingly, they should be used for the purpose of waste handling.

5. Since 1924, the Ontario Tree Seed Facility in Angus performed a vital task for the whole province of coordinating seed collection from 37 zones across the province to ensure seedlings are returned to grow in the zone to which they are uniquely suited. The Progressive Conservative government is reviewing the closing ordered by the Liberals. What is your opinion on this matter?

ANSWER

Based on what I read, I don't understand why MNRF would make such an arbitrary decision without consulting stakeholders. I have signed the petition as I believe there is a good case to apply some sober second thought to this matter.

6. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

ANSWER

In my opinion, three pillars of sound municipal management are
Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Affordability

My priorities would be

- Do everything possible to restrict water taking and gravel washing from the Teedon Pit and seek an affordable solution to the septage issue.
- Provide more emphasis on attracting commercial businesses and environmentally-friendly light industry to provide more employment for Tiny’s residents. Currently, only about 7% of residents actually have employment in Tiny. (Stats Can) The provincial average is 49%. We need full-time jobs that pay a decent wage and provide benefits, not minimum-wage part-time jobs with no benefits.
- In order to attract employers, work on securing high-speed internet and cell reception must be expedited. Too much of the Township is underserved or lacks service completely. Businesses cannot sustain themselves without these basic services.
- Tiny residents should have preferred access to the many natural features, such as major beach parks, which they pay to maintain. Each household in Tiny should be provided with one free parking pass annually. In addition, the Township should be promoting healthy, active lifestyles by either directly or indirectly through contract, making available, on a rental basis, non-motorized watercrafts such as kayaks and paddleboards, etc., at major beach parks.
- Council should champion a cost-saving program to seek cost efficiencies and practical spending reductions by inviting both staff and residents to offer suggestions on how to deliver our current services in a different manner.

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Thank you for completing the AWARE Simcoe candidate questionnaire