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**SHEEHAN AND MOLINARO RECEIVE ACCESS TO COLONIE LANDFILL DOCUMENTS:  
SAY TAXPAYERS AT RISK**

Denise Sheehan, candidate for Colonie Town Supervisor, and Peter Molinaro, candidate for Colonie Town Board today announced that they recently were given access to documents related to the Town of Colonie’s 25-year landfill deal, and are even more concerned than they were previously.

“Our fears and concerns about the deal have only been reinforced after reviewing the documents that the Town failed to make public prior to sealing the deal.” said Sheehan.

From their preliminary review, five major concerns are clear:

1. **The deal fails to fairly compensate the Town by giving away the landfill for a fraction of its value.** The released documents include a Town-commissioned report from a private engineering firm which shows that the landfill, if expanded to its full potential, would be worth approximately \$600 million. Instead, under the deal, the Town agreed to accept a fraction of this full value -- an estimated \$100 million over 25 years. This information supports statements made by Albany County Comptroller, Mike Conners, that the Town is getting short-changed.
2. **The deal puts control of the landfill in the hands of a private waste company without strong oversight provisions.** The contract does not require an on-site monitor for the landfill and it lacks strong monitoring and oversight provisions to fully protect the Town’s interests. Despite the fact that the Town is still the owner of the landfill, has an on-going financial stake in its operations and is responsible for ensuring the landfill’s compliance with environmental laws, the contract does not require the private operator to regularly and proactively report to the Town on its activities at the landfill, making the Town vulnerable to fraud and malfeasance.
3. **The Town agreed as part of the deal to use its powers of eminent domain to benefit a private waste corporation.** In a provision never discussed by the Mahan Administration in any of the public sessions, the Town has agreed to condemn private property near the landfill at the behest of the private waste conglomerate to expand the landfill for the future benefit of the company.
4. **The deal results in new unfunded costs for taxpayers.** The Town rejected proposals from bidders that would have kept landfill employees working at the landfill. At least two bidders proposed retaining Town employees at the landfill and maintaining their status and benefits as town employees, all at the cost of the contractor. Instead, the Town plans to transfer the current landfill staff to other town departments. Taxpayers will now pick up the \$2.2 million annual cost of these 21 staff – a cost that is not currently funded and was clearly avoidable.

5. **The pricing controls in the contract won't prevent huge garbage disposal rate increases over time.** The contract allows Waste Connections subsidiary, County Waste, to increase curbside pick-up for residents in the Villages of Menands and Colonie by 5 percent as of April 2012 and by no less than 3.5 percent annually for other town residents. County Waste is also permitted to increase its rates further for fuel increases or other unforeseen cost but the contract fails to spell out how these additional costs are calculated, leaving Town residents subject to unchecked rate increases.

“As we had suspected, the Town is clearly being short-changed in this deal. By rushing this deal through behind closed doors, Supervisor Mahan has also left the Town vulnerable to malfeasance and fraud, additional costs and price increases. Given that County Waste was only recently the subject of fraud allegations at the landfill, I would've expected to see a much stronger oversight role for the Town in the contract.” said Sheehan.

Peter Molinaro added, “With a stroke of a pen, Supervisor Mahan has disenfranchised all of the citizens of Colonie by essentially shifting control of the landfill from our elected public officials to an out-of-state waste conglomerate. Now we understand why the contract was withheld from the public until after it was signed.”

Sheehan is a dedicated public servant with more than 20 years of budgeting, managerial and governmental experience, having spent ten years at the state Department of Environmental Conservation and two years at its commissioner. Molinaro is an attorney and private consultant with nearly 30 years experience in the private and public sectors.

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*For more information on Denise Sheehan, please visit her [website](#).*