

Pelham Council focused on governing after KPMG report

Questions related to allegations of fraud, misconduct, misrepresentation, or wrongdoing have been answered and proven false through an exhaustive 100-page final report by KPMG.

As a result, Pelham Town Council determined there is no need for an additional public meeting.

Questions and concerns regarding other Town business will continue to be answered through usual channels.

Since March 2017, Pelham Council and staff have provided documentation (330+ page response document), held meetings (evening with the experts), and complied with a financial investigation (KPMG audit) in response to initial allegations by a member of Niagara Regional Council.

“For nearly 10 months our responses to the ongoing allegations have been consistent, and KPMG has validated these facts in their final report: there is no unreported debt, the Town is within its annual debt repayment limit, transactions in East Fonthill were done according to the Acts and by laws, and no financial statements have been misstated,” said Mayor Dave Augustyn. “Our default is to always be as open, transparent, and accommodating to the public as possible. If there are questions, we listen to them and we answer them – it is what we have done since March. The final report closes the door on these allegations.”

As part of the KPMG audit, the public had an opportunity to submit questions directly to the auditor. Of the 17,000-plus residents and hundreds of Pelham businesses, a total of 160 questions were submitted from 50 email addresses.

Town Council says they are ready to move forward and get back to governing. “Enough is enough, it’s time for us to move on,” said Councillor Catherine King.

The full KPMG report, including a forensic review of Town finances from 2008-2017, and the presentations from Nov. 29, can be found on the Town’s [website](#).



Local youth art on full display

Several rooms in Town Hall, including Council Chambers, have a slightly different look, thanks to art students from E.L. Crossley Secondary Secondary School.

Sherry Wilkinson, a visual arts instructor at the school, approached the Town with the idea of showcasing local youth art in Town Hall. She accompanied some of her students to the Dec. 18 Council meeting, highlighting and recognizing the work of her grades 9 and 11 students.

“I think it’s important that we put this creativity on display,” said Wilkinson.

The artwork on display focuses on composition of real life objects as well as imaginative pieces assembled portraits of significant people, using items found only in a “junk drawer”.

Dollars and Cents

- Pelham Town Council approved a bylaw #3945(2017) to increase the Town’s current line of credit. A common practice amongst municipalities, and granted within the Municipal Act, the increase allows early year expenditures to be met prior to the collection of taxes. Pelham did not need to increase the limit to its maximum amount.
- Time constraints at Monday’s meeting necessitated budget presentations and discussions be deferred until the New Year. The conversation will resume on Monday, January 8, 2018.

Pelham Town Council

Next meeting: Monday, January 8, 2018

6:30 p.m. Council Chambers

This document will be provided in alternative formats upon request to the Town Clerk.
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