

May 11, 2015 – KPMG is the Taxpayer's Friend

After an unforgettable rendition of 'O Canada' by Tim Zherg on his French horn, the meeting got underway. A rezoning by-law was proposed by Mr. Pierre Beaucage so that his company can deem the lots on commercial avenue into three. He proposes the repurposing of Ecole Lionel Gauthier and transforming it into an apartment complex and he further proposes to build 2 new apartment complexes with the total number of units to total 100. In his rezoning request Beaucage asks for by-law changes to include less parking than normally required, so there would only be 89 spaces (less than the 1.6 spaces presently the norm for new apartment constructions). A change to the setback and green space by-law was also in this new proposal. The builder informed council that roof top green spaces was included in this new proposal. This was met with considerable resistance from council members who rightfully recommended that the standards of setback green space and parking were put in place to be followed by all new developers so that the city plan could be adhered to by all. Further to this a member of the neighbourhood spoke to council expressing his concerns and that of his neighbours with respect to shortage of parking that would exist should council approve the amendment. Where will everyone park when say a day like Mother's Day? The new development is not only reducing parking from the standard 120, down to 89, but where will the visitors park? He asked further to that where will the children play? I can only envision children playing on the rooftops of these buildings!

Next, Mr. Oscar Palloni from KPMG addressed council with his initial presentation. I strongly urge all who are interested in the core services review to visit [timmins.ca](http://timmins.ca) and view this webcast. I believe you will all come away with the same observation as I did. Mr. Palloni is definitely in charge of this audit and exudes confidence in his audit methods. Personally, I will tell you that his presentation was extremely detailed and his take charge attitude is definitely what the doctor ordered. He stated KPMG is not hired to give recommendations but instead point out the opportunities that exist and he also stated that many of these opportunities have already been found and it is up to this council to act or not on these opportunities. Neither Mayor nor council will not be able to trip this man up and employee's refusal to participate be tolerated. He will "find a way " as he says to work around such issues. Let me just end here by saying this again: Please view the webcast for yourself. Also please listen to councillor Doody's statement after his presentation. I believe the word transparency is used here when referencing the TTA.

That's a rap on this week's recap!