

Oakville Today

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Councillors want answers

Hospital request requires greater due diligence, Ward 5 Councillors say

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NORTH OAKVILLE TODAY - Town Council is expected to vote on whether or not to commit \$200M to the new Oakville hospital local share contribution on Monday night, but not before Ward 5 Councillors Jeff Knoll and Marc Grant get some answers.

"We all want this new hospital, it's an absolute must," Knoll said. "But the information from Halton Healthcare Services has been more sales pitch than disclosure. I got more detailed data before I bought my last car."

Knoll and Grant submitted a list of questions to HHS CEO John Oliver and Town CAO Ray Green on Wednesday which they believe must be answered fully before any commitment is made on behalf of the taxpayers. Included in this list is a potential option to pay for the Town's portion with minimal impact to residents.

"Oakville Hydro, which is owned by the Town, just sold Blink Communications," Knoll said. "With a reasonable investment, that money could easily cover a significant portion of the contribution request without taxpayers giving a cent more."

Among the list of questions are requests for data on the Town's governance in the new hospital, who will ultimately own the hospital buildings and lands, the possibility of the new hospital being used for teaching and a more in-depth analysis of the finances of the ongoing operations.

"Too many residents aren't satisfied with what we've been given by HHS at this point," Knoll said. "I'm doing my due diligence as a steward of the taxpayers' money."

"My constituents not only deserve, but have the right to expect full disclosure before any investment of this significance is made."