STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES

QUESTION PERIOD

1091 - Councillor Thomas referred to an incident where a truck had caused damage to the fence of the Elmwood Cemetery and had broken two tombstones, and questioned when these could be fixed and how the arrangements would be made.

Councillor Angus noted that he would investigate the matter.

Councillor Thomas questioned if the previous or current owner had some sort of insurance that might cover the damage and whether or not there was a perpetual reserve fund.

Councillor Angus advised that the perpetual maintenance fund had very tight guidelines for maintenance of the property and that there was very little money in the fund but noted that he would follow up on the matter.

In response to a request by Councillor Phillips regarding the truck size and type of ownership, Councillor Angus indicated he would make appropriate inquiries.

Councillor Murray referred to a July 21 informal meeting of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues and questioned the legal authority of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues in providing direction to the Director of Water and Waste and further questioned why the matter had not appeared on a regular agenda of the Committee.

Councillor Angus advised that Committee did in fact convene informal meetings but that there were no representative from the City Clerk's Department present, no motions were passed and no decisions made. He went on to advise that in this particular case, the Director of Water and Waste stated that he had a problem with the tenders that he was going to be awarding and was going to be commencing multi-year tenders and combining the areas that were to be tendered to achieve cost benefits to the City. Councillor Angus stated that the Committee had informally concurred with the strategy and encouraged the administration to proceed with the matter, which they did by bringing it forth to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works.

Councillor Murray questioned why the subject was not on the formal agenda of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues and why it did not go before the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works.

Councillor Angus stated that due process was adhered to by the administration in that they issued the tenders as was their purview making the best management decisions they could on the long-term basis of the contract.

Councillor Murray again questioned why instructions were given at an informal meeting and not at a formal meeting.

Councillor Angus noted the tight time frame for the Director of Water and Waste to follow to ensure that the tenders were done and brought to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works.