STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

587 - In noting that the Executive Policy Committee recommendation for Clause 5 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works dated April 14, 1998, "Main Street Reconstruction from Higgins Avenue to Disraeli / Alexander Avenue", directs the Chief Financial Officer to find $1.1 million in additional funds as a revenue base for the Main Street Reconstruction, Councillor Thomas questioned why the Chief Financial Officer cannot also be asked to come up with the money for Thin Bituminous Overlay.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph advised that the Main Street Project was a Capital Project, noting that it originally was anticipated to be a current operating item with regard to the asphalting of the street . Councillor Timm-Rudolph further indicated that the street required substantial upgrading that warranted meeting the criteria of a Capital Project and noted that residual funds could be found from other Capital projects for this purpose.

In noting the estimated $1.9 million surplus in the 1997 current budget, Councillor Thomas questioned if additional capital budget authority would be utilized for the Main Street Reconstruction.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph stated that the monies for the project had been budgeted for in 1998 with monies coming from the Main Street Project, and that they were not utilizing any additional capital budget authority. Councillor Angus replied that the money could be reassigned and Council could decree that they think this particular project is worthwhile or they can determine they want to spend the money on something else. Councillor Angus explained that the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works identified the Main Street Project as valuable and the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues looked at where the money could be found. Councillor Angus noted that if the debt was extended and the capital debt applied in a traditional fashion, there would be a continual residual effect of $113,000 a year. He further advised that the Director of Public Works indicated that it was very early in the construction season, tenders were coming in reasonably priced and underpriced, but that the Director would know much better in September if the necessary funds could be found.

In reference to the related financing option resolution that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues "review financing options in September and determine funding sources at that time", Councillor Steek questioned how the project would be financed if the money is not found in September and how the Main Street project matter was different that the Thin Bituminous Overlay matter.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph advised that Council approved the Neeginan Project and identified it as a priority. Councillor Angus noted that the Main Street project was a capital project and that it would not be fiscally responsible to finance the Thin Bituminous Overlay maintenance project as a capital project.

Councillor Murray claimed that $2 million of unbudgeted expenditures had been approved by the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works, and in noting that funding for recycling education had been lost, questioned the budget process.

Moved by Councillor Golden,
That the Rule be suspended to allow an additional 5 minutes for Standing Policy Committee on Public Works - Question Period.

The motion to suspend the rule was put.

Councillor Steek called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Golden, Lubosch, Murray, Steek, Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal and Clement. 8

Nay: Councillors Angus, O'Shaughnessy, Phillips and Silva. 4

and the motion to suspend the rule to allow an additional 5 minutes was declared carried.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph noted Council had delegated to the Administration the authority to conduct expenditure management and, as such, expending funds on programs are examined by the Administration with no Council involvement. Councillor Timm-Rudolph further advised that she would investigate Councillor Murray's questions with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues.