STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 623
Councillor Browaty noted that this past summer, users of Henderson Highway were puzzled to see sidewalk and road works done between Hespler and Johnson and only weeks later, saw it torn up again. Councillor Browaty questioned what happened and what was the cost of the rework.

Councillor Clement advised that there was a mill and fill on Henderson Highway north of Hespler; and because work was going to be done on the Disraeli, the Public Works Department felt that they would go further south with the mill and fill. When the department initially checked, there was no other project that was going to affect this, so they moved forward. A short time later, they found out that there was a water main renewal happening south of Hespler in the second leg of the area that they were looking at. The Public Works staff had in fact catalogued this particular initiative, but when staff reviewed it, they didn't catch it. Councillor Clement noted that the Director took full responsibility for the error which cost $3,630.40.

Councillor Browaty questioned if the department would do anything differently in the future to ensure similar errors do not occur.

Councillor Clement noted that no one likes to see errors, but that sometimes, it is not that simple to defend against. He reiterated that the department admitted that they were at fault and that the director has taken full responsibility.

Councillor Gerbasi, referencing the error that had occurred, asked the Chairperson if he felt that breakdowns in the system such as this were because of the WAPSO staff reductions, to which Councillor Clement replied in the negative.