Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 17, 2010

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Minute No. 213 Proposed Funding for Local Street Renewal
eFile FC(2010)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of January 27, 2010, pertaining to funding for the 2010 Local Street Renewal, be received as information.

(See Minute 221)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,

That the Council Motion of January 27, 2010, pertaining to funding for the 2010 Local Street Renewal, be received as information, and forwarded to Council.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 3, 2010, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Council Motion of January 27, 2010, pertaining to funding for the 2010 Local Street Renewal to the 2010 Budget Process.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 27, 2010, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has either frozen or cut property taxes for the last 12 years;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg's existing infrastructure deficit has skyrocketed to over $380 million in 2009 dollars;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has requested new tax revenues from the Province of Manitoba but has so far refused to consider its own property tax increase;

AND WHEREAS had the City of Winnipeg raised property taxes at the rate of inflation (2% a year or less) for the last 12 years, Winnipeg would have approximately $190 million in additional tax revenues today;

AND WHEREAS in his 2009 State of the City speech, Mayor Katz clearly outlined that Winnipeg's municipal property taxes are now some of the most competitive in Canada when compared to other big cities;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg's official position has been to call on the Province of Manitoba to remove the archaic practice of collecting Education Taxes on property;

AND WHEREAS the existing situation is not sustainable and requires immediate leadership from City Hall;

AND WHEREAS the local street renewal budget (residential streets) has consistently hovered in the $10 to $15 million range annually, not withstanding the fact that the local street and lane annual infrastructure deficit was estimated in 2009 to be $79 million;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request that the 2010 Operating Budget include a 2% increase in property taxes, raising approximately $8.5 million, and that all such funds be dedicated to the 2010 Local Street Renewal Budget, therefore amending and increasing the 2010 Capital Budget with these additional funds.