Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 17, 2010

OPERATING BUDGET REVIEW

Minute No. 214 Proposed Funding for Regional and Local Sidewalk Renewal eFile FE(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 Regional and Local Sidewalk Renewal, be received as information.

(See Minute 221)

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Fielding,

That the Council Motion of January 27, 2010, pertaining to funding for the 2010 Regional and Local Sidewalk 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 Regional and Local Sidewalk 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 Smith,

WHEREAS Council amended the 2009 Capital budget and increased funding for local sidewalk renewals by $600,000 from $400,000 to 1,000,000;

AND WHEREAS in the 2010 Capital budget, Council did not maintain the $1,000,000 level of funding, but again approved only $400,000 for the funding for local sidewalks renewals;

AND WHEREAS funding for sidewalk renewals is included in both the Capital and Operating (current) Budgets of the city and both include similar mandates, specifically the renewal of sidewalks;

AND WHEREAS, according to the Winnipeg Public Service, we are underfunding the renewal of our regional sidewalk network in both our capital and operating budgets by $500,000 and underfunding the renewal of our local sidewalk network in both our capital and operating budgets by $1,000,000, for a total of $1,500,000 of underfunding;

AND WHEREAS as per the proposed operating (current) budget for 2010 and approved capital budget for 2010, Winnipeg funds regional / local sidewalk renewal in both budgets by a total of $2,344,393;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding this existing level of funding, according to the Winnipeg Public Service, the underfunding of sidewalk renewals by $1,500,000 is a part of Winnipeg's Infrastructure deficit and directly contributes to the growth of Winnipeg's infrastructure debt;

AND WHEREAS an increase of funding by another $1,500,000 a year for sidewalk renewals would, in effect, actually eliminate the infrastructure deficit for sidewalks, thus setting a positive precedent as we work towards addressing the remaining infrastructure challenge;

AND WHEREAS Council found resources to add $3.5 million to the 2010 capital budget to purchase a police helicopter in the name of making our city safer;

AND WHEREAS the deplorable state of many of our city's sidewalks poses a real safety hazard to pedestrians, especially for seniors and our youth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council include $1.5 million in additional funding for sidewalks, specifically $500,000 more for regional sidewalk renewal and $1 million more for local sidewalk renewal, in the 2010 Operating Budget, and that this would be in addition to the $900,000 approved in the 2010 Capital Budget for regional/local sidewalk renewals and in addition to the $1,444393 as proposed in the 2010 operating (current budget) for a grand total of $3,844,393 for regional/local sidewalk renewals.