STANDING POLICY COMMITTEEON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 587
In noting that the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development referred a matter to the Administration in June to develop a policy on electronic message boards, Councillor Havixbeck questioned if there would be an opportunity for citizens and businesses to provide input into what is important for them.

Councillor Browaty stated that the instruction from the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development was to go and review what was happening in other jurisdictions, what best practices were in terms of use of the signs and in terms of revenue generating opportunities for report back in 180 days and the report should come forward in December or January. Councillor Havixbeck noted that she had heard from a number of local businesses on the issue and asked if a policy or some input mechanism could be made available to provide Councillors' feedback.

Councillor Browaty clarified that the report would only be a review of what practices were in other jurisdictions and that would be a starting place to come up with a new policy. Councillor Browaty suggested that perhaps there could be some feedback gathering process now before that report comes forward and he would be amendable if The Deputy Mayor and the Acting Deputy Mayor Havixbeck would like to do that at the next Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development meeting.

Councillor Eadie asked the Chair to confirm that for expropriations where they were dealing with properties and situations where, while it might not be an emergency where properties were actually not that much more than the market value of the land and that a Councillor would be consulted. Councillor Browaty agreed to look at the report and if anything needs further clarification that he would be willing to get that from the department for the Councillor.

Councillor Eadie questioned if there were any other considerations given to how derelict and vacant housing was dealt with to improve the way things were done.

Councillor Browaty replied that Council gave direction back in 2010 to deal aggressively with vacant and derelict buildings and the item was part and parcel of that and other components were still coming forward.