EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 296
Councillor Gerbasi questioned if His Worship would be prepared to ask the Province to enable new forms of dedicated revenue for infrastructure that were essentially new levies over and above current Provincial revenue being collected.

His Worship Mayor Katz advised that that the A.M.M. and many other groups had talked to the Provincial Government and if the government felt that they were not in a position to take money out of their existing revenues, only they had the power to increase any of those levies, taxes.

Councillor Gerbasi questioned if His Worship would support at this point asking the Public Service to identify and evaluate other revenue options such as taxes on parking lots, road tolls or additional levies on gasoline whether they required talking to the Province about permission to do those things in order to find other options to fund Rapid Transit.

His Worship noted that on a regular basis, the CAO, CCO, CFO and the administration were always looking for opportunities for revenues. He further noted that the reason they were doing so, was because unlike other levels of government, the City was required to balance its budget, so it needed the revenue to pay for the expenses.

Councillor Gerbasi stated that His Worship had stated that if the water park project wasn't announced very soon, that the $7 million set aside would be freed up to be used elsewhere. Councillor Gerbasi questioned where the $7 million would be going or what was the process for deciding where it goes?

His Worship advised that that within the next two weeks, the administration would be advising if there was or was not a proponent that was ready to move forward. If there wasn't a proponent, the money would go back into recreation.

Councillor Mayes referred to the issue of the potential closure of police stations in the North Kildonan and St. Vital Wards and requested His Worship to confirm that no decisions had been made on this yet.

His Worship advised that there was an audit done that showed, according to the Winnipeg Police Service, that the usage of these two facilities was down and that officers in these locations were not being used to their full potential. He further advised that the recommendation advanced was to get those officers out onto the street. He noted the reason was because most people today, when filing an accident report, don't go to these facilities; they go straight to M.P.I. or do it on-line.