STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 184

In reference to the Residential Speed Limit report considered by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on January 11, 2013 and the decision to not lower the residential speed limit to 40 km/h, Councillor Eadie questioned if some of the streets being reconstructed under the new residential grid street plan could have the bulbouts at the corners or streets narrowed a bit to reduce speeding on those streets.

Councillor Vandal replied that he was not in disagreement with that, noted that bump outs were done on residential streets in certain areas of the St. Boniface Ward with mixed results; some neighbourhoods loved them and some absolutely hated them. He suggested the key consideration was local consultation with the Ward Councillor and the community.

Councillor Eadie asked the Chair to let him know if the residents were really upset about bulbouts or if they hated them the most where the streets were already narrow. Councillor Vandal agreed to take the question under advisement and report back.

Councillor Browaty commended City staff and the large complement of contractors on the fantastic snow clearing and removal done throughout the city this year and suggested Winnipeg had the most thorough plowing program in North America. Councillor Browaty stated that the "Know Your Zone" Program had a lot of potential, although there were still a couple of hiccups as it progressed. Councillor Browaty asked if the Chair would be willing to ask the Public Works Department to look further on its coordination with recycling / garbage pick-up days.

Councillor Vandal acknowledged that Winnipeg had absolutely the best snow clearing in all of Canada and advised that the Public Works Department was going to evaluate the whole "Know Your Zone" initiative once winter breaks. He added that he heard mixed reviews; some people think it worked very well; other people did not like it at all and agreed to ask the question and give direction to better coordinate the recycling and garbage pick-up.

His Worship Mayor Katz asked if the Chair was aware that City staff continue to operate and maintain all three sewage treatment plans and the water treatment plans and were trained and certified to do so as per Provincial Operator Certification regulations. Councillor Vandal thanked the Mayor for the information and acknowledged that all three water treatment plants were City-owned, City-operated and do a fantastic job.

Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure, Renewal and Public Works – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Orlikow questioned if the Chair would be willing to look at the Office of Traffic Safety, modeling it like Edmonton and a few other cities have. Councillor Vandal agreed to take the question under advisement.

Councillor Havixbeck questioned if there was some sort of performance assessment report about Emterra. Councillor Vandal replied in the affirmative and advised that the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works adopted a motion to get a report on waste collection private organizations, not just Emterra but B.F.I. as well, and that the report should be forthcoming.

Councillor Havixbeck questioned if the report would include the Emterra fines and how that was reported in the 2013 Budget; whether as revenue stream or a reduction in expenditures. Councillor Vandal replied that it was his understanding that any fines levied against private garbage collection was netted out against their contract and what the City paid them to do the work.

Councillor Havixbeck asked for the list of streets for renewal; specifically for local streets that would have been renewed under the 2013 Budget and for a specific list for the one percent infrastructure tax that would be dedicated. Councillor Vandal agreed to follow up with the Director of Public Works to make sure the process of choosing the street to be re-done under the new one percent scenario involved all Members of Council.

Councillor Wyatt referred to a meeting with the Highway Traffic Board about speed limits and a subsequent letter asking for the City's position, which Councillor Vandal, as Chair, responded to on behalf of the City, noting significant concerns with the list of proposed increases, and questioned if the Board had contacted the Chair since the response was sent on January 15th.

Councillor Vandal confirmed that there was a phone conversation between the Secretary of the Highway Traffic Board and his Executive Assistant and the Highway Traffic Board was not interested in the politician's point of view but were interested in the Administrative perspective on all speed increase scenarios brought forward.

Councillor Wyatt questioned if there would be any kind of follow-up. Councillor Vandal replied that there had been no follow-up since then.