EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 186
Councillor Eadie referred to a recent natural gas pipeline explosion in Manitoba, questioned if His Worship Mayor Katz had found out and / or could conduct a seminar on the proposal to move bitumen through the Shoal Lake area, close to the City's water supply, and inquired if they have enough liability to cover potential disasters at Shoal Lake.

His Worship replied that he had not been briefed on that but that he would be happy to sit down with the Administration and, if required, have a Council Seminar.

Councillor Eadie questioned if the City was directly consulted by the Trans Canada Pipeline people and the Federal Government about potential disasters at Shoal Lake. His Worship agreed to meet with the Administration to address that issue and respond to the Councillor.

Councillor Smith referred to a September 27, 2012 Council Motion and questioned when the external and objective Real Estate Management audit, going back a minimum of 5 years, would be available to Council. His Worship stated that neither the Mayor nor the Executive Policy Committee was briefed on the matter. He added that the only time he had been briefed on an update of an audit had been by way of a copy of an answer from the Auditor to Councillor Havixbeck. He concluded that he understands that the audit was taking longer than expected and would definitely exceed the budget.

Councillor Havixbeck noted that at the October 22, 2013, meeting of Council, the Mayor stated that Mr. Deepak Joshi would not apply for the position of Chief Administrative Office and questioned if he would now be applying for that position.

His Worship stated that it was extremely unfortunate that these types of issues were raised on the floor of Council and advised that the Interim Acting Chief Administrative Office made it very clear that he had no intention of applying for the position.

Councillor Havixbeck referred to concern expressed by Colin Craig regarding the response he received to a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy request for the change order for the enlargement or change of scope of the fire hall on Portage Avenue and inquired what the Mayor had done to address this or answer why there was no change order.

His Worship replied that there was a very thorough dialogue on record that could be found and shared about a potential museum on that site, which was ruled out. He added that there was also talk about having a ladder to address fires in the southwest part of the City, as well as being able to get to the airport on time and the floor plan was increased in size in regards to training facilities.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Havixbeck noted that Council, at its meeting held on December 11, 2013, authorized an additional expenditure of 17.2 million towards the police headquarters project and questioned if it was true that the builder had still not signed a contract with the City of Winnipeg and was refusing to supply invoices for the actual 17.2 million expenditure.

His Worship advised that Council approved 17.2 million to complete that facility and, at that point in time, talked about a fixed contract price. His Worship stated that he assumed the administration was developing a contract with Legal Services for signature by all parties and agreed to get more information about that.

Councillor Havixbeck questioned if there was an actual signed contract; to which His Worship replied that he has not seen a signed contract.