Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 25, 2014

REPORTS

Minute No. 247 Citizen Reimbursement for Thawing of Frozen Water Lines

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the City of Winnipeg reimburse property owners for costs incurred to thaw frozen Private Pipes, subject to the following conditions:

    A. eligible costs shall include only those costs of thawing the frozen Private Pipes;
    B. reimbursement shall be limited to claims for costs incurred between December 1, 2013 and May 31st, 2014;
    C. if the Private Pipes were thawed by the City and the City Fee has been waived, the property owner shall not be eligible for further reimbursement;
    D. if the Private Pipes were thawed by the City and the City Fee was paid by the property owner, the property owner shall be eligible for reimbursement to a maximum of $305;
    E. if the Private Pipes were thawed by a private contractor engaged by the property owner, the property owner shall be eligible for reimbursement of actual costs incurred to a maximum of $305 as determined by the invoice(s) accompanying the property owner's claim;
    F. the maximum total reimbursement for each property shall not exceed $305.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,

WHEREAS the maintenance of water service pipes that are located from the street watermain to the private property line ("Public Pipes") is the responsibility of the City;

AND WHEREAS the maintenance of water service pipes that are located under private property ("Private Pipes") is the responsibility of the private property owner;

AND WHEREAS due to extreme weather conditions this winter, an unusually high number of both Public Pipes and Private Pipes have frozen, resulting in a temporary loss of water services to 2,180 properties as of March 25, 2014;

AND WHEREAS the City has determined that it would be good public policy to reimburse property owners for their costs incurred in thawing frozen Private Pipes due to the unique and unforeseeable circumstances of the current winter season;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City of Winnipeg reimburse property owners for costs incurred to thaw frozen Private Pipes, subject to the following conditions:
   (i) eligible costs shall include only those costs of thawing the frozen Private Pipes;
   (ii) reimbursement shall be limited to claims for costs incurred between December 1, 2013 and May 31st, 2014;
   (iii) if the Private Pipes were thawed by the City and the City Fee has been waived, the property owner shall not be eligible for further reimbursement;
   (iv) if the Private Pipes were thawed by the City and the City Fee was paid by the property owner, the property owner shall be eligible for reimbursement to a maximum of $305;
   (v) if the Private Pipes were thawed by a private contractor engaged by the property owner, the property owner shall be eligible for reimbursement of actual costs incurred to a maximum of $305 as determined by the invoice(s) accompanying the property owner's claim;
   (vi) the maximum total reimbursement for each property shall not exceed $305.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

and forwarded to Council.

Carried