STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 105
Councillor Eadie referred to the proposal for a pipe to carry bitumen from Alberta that would run by Shoal Lake, which was where Winnipeg's water comes from, and asked for an update on the status of the issue and questioned if they were asked to carry enough liability for the kind of disaster that could possibly happen to Winnipeg's water

Councillor Lukes advised that the money that was approved, was to start preparing and working with specialists to understand the proposed pipeline design, its impacts and risks, explore all available options and alternatives and actively start protecting the City of Winnipeg's critical assets. Councillor Lukes advised that this had to be done to be in a position to respond during the regulatory approval stages of the pipeline so Energy East has given the intent and the broad outline of what they were considering and in mid-September released more details around their intent. The City now had to prepare a response and present it to the national Energy Board, and that was going to occur mid-summer, and the City would be informed of liabilities during that process.

Councillor Wyatt referred to the very harsh 2013 / 2014 winter, noted that one of the issues was the difficulty of the City keeping sidewalks plowed and the City's fleet operational, and asked what steps the Public Works Department had taken to ensure that Winnipeggers would not re-live what happened last year with regards to sidewalk snow removal.

Councillor Lukes stated that last winter had extreme conditions and challenges and that Public Works was working on a plan to go through even more specific areas for sidewalk and snow removal for future review with Councillors.

Councillor Wyatt stated that he hoped they would have the plan soon since they were in the winter season now to which Councillor Lukes replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Schreyer inquired if that meant that a representative from the Department of Public Works would contact him to personally review the issue with him.

Councillor Lukes replied that someone from Public Works would provide the report, recommendations based on 311 calls and on their analysis and would talk with members of Councillor personally to review the report and seek additional input before it went forward.