STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE

RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 211
Councillor Mayes asked about the status of a debriefing session for Councillors with the administration following the first residential snow plough of the winter; to which Councillor Lukes advised that she was waiting to hear when that would occur.

Councillor Pagtakhan noted that he had heard that Councillor Lukes rode on a piece of snow clearing equipment, questioned what she learned from that experience and asked for information regarding how many kilometres were cleared annually.

Councillor Lukes confirmed that she did go out to experience it and it was a very complex process driving a 20 foot long piece of equipment, wanting to not shear off a fire hydrant or live wires, watching for parked cars, driving cars and residents sweeping driveways off. She noted that the following kilometers were plowed: 1,828 of P1's; 1,431 of P2's; 3,684 of P3's; 85 of enhanced plowing around schools, 928 of back lanes, 130 of active transportation paths. Some areas of the City have no trees and the snow blows in more than in treed areas so a snow event may be an event on the north end and not on the south end. She stated that she campaigned on better communication between the city, the Councillor and the constituents and was really looking forward to the debriefing.

Councillor Pagtakhan asked the Chair if she knew that the Arlington Street Bridge opened on February 5, 1912, was 103 years old, and served 15,000 drivers daily; to which Councillor Lukes replied that she did not know that.

Councillor Browaty noted that he received more than normal complaints about brown water incidences in the North Kildonan Ward, asked for an update on the expedited bi-directional cleaning process of the various water mains throughout the City, and inquired when the rest of the city would be completed.

Councillor Lukes advised that water main flushing normally takes six years to complete but in 2014, the administration decided to perform an accelerated fast track program to address the discoloured water in two years. On July 3, 2014 the water main cleaning program began. Water main cleaning was from May to October but was delayed because resources were required for the frozen water pipe emergency response. A press release advised of the delay and water main cleaning was expected to be completed in the fall of 2016.

Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Schreyer questioned if the Chair would partake in the endeavour for a comparative analysis in the current era of contracted plowing; to which Councillor Lukes replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Schreyer questioned if the report could include the factors that led to the decision to reduce in-house snow clearing down to 20 per cent or so.

Councillor Lukes confirmed that she would approach it in an open and transparent manner and, if the city had that data, she hoped it would be included in the report.

Councillor Eadie referred to some 6,700 parking tickets that were issued during the recent snow clearing operation and asked if the Chair was aware that eight parking tickets were issued on a street that has only 32 houses and asked if the debrief would provide information like that.

Councillor Lukes confirmed that she went directly to the Winnipeg Parking Authority and found a bit of a glitch in the system on cars being towed and being reported and how the owner did or did not find the car. She added that she had more questions on the distribution of the areas where tickets were issued and stated that they need to be better aware of the process step-by-step.