Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 19, 2019

BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 13 Agreement for the Cost Recovery of EMS and Related Services

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the matter as information.

(See Budget Review Item 22)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,
That the matter be received as information.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

On December 5, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba, through Shared Health has a responsibility to provide health services to the citizens of Winnipeg, which includes Emergency Medical Services, Inter-Facility Medical Transportation and Community Paramedicine services (hereinafter referred to as EMS and related services);

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg currently provides EMS and related services on behalf of Shared Health under an Integrated Fire and Paramedic model that includes ambulance services and paramedics on all fire apparatus;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is currently providing EMS and related services on behalf of Shared Health under an agreement that expired on March 31, 2016, despite repeated efforts by the City to reach a new agreement;

AND WHEREAS under the expired agreement, the funding for EMS and related services was provided through an arrangement that included ambulance user fees as well as contributions from Shared Health and the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS in November 2017, Shared Health advised the City of Winnipeg of its unilateral decision to freeze funding for EMS and related services at 2016 levels for 2017 and 2018 which created an immediate funding shortfall for the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS officials from the City of Winnipeg and Shared Health have subsequently worked together to eliminate the 2017 and 2018 funding shortfalls that the City was facing for EMS and related services;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg and Shared Health have not reached a new funding agreement for EMS and related services for 2019 and beyond;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS if Shared Health wishes to have the City of Winnipeg continue to provide EMS and related services on its behalf, the City should do so under a new agreement that recognizes the City's explicit role as a contract provider of these services, given that health care is ultimately the responsibility of the Province of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg requires certainty on expenses and revenues for the preparation of its 2019 Budgets;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg should require full cost recovery from Shared Health in a new agreement for the provision of EMS and related services which will allow the City to direct existing property taxes to service delivery that is under municipal jurisdiction while continuing to provide high quality EMS and related services on behalf of Shared Health and on a full cost recovery basis from Shared Health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

1. Negotiate a new agreement with Shared Health for the provision of Emergency Medical Services, Inter-Facility Medical Transportation and Community Paramedicine services (EMS and related services) that reflects a full cost recovery by the City of Winnipeg from Shared Health for the provision of these services for 2019 and beyond.

2. Ensure that the City of Winnipeg's 2019 draft operating budget reflects a full cost recovery of EMS and related services from Shared Health, which for greater clarity means there should not be any financial support for these services provided from the City's general revenues in 2019.