Agenda - Council - February 25, 2004

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services - February 9, 2004

Item No. 3 Goods and Services Tax Rebate to Municipalities
File FR-2

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 18, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 9, 2004, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommended to Council:

1. That all GST rebate monies be dedicated to "new" capital infrastructure programs, that are not part of the projected operating or capital budgets.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 18, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 9, 2004, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services passed the following motion:

> WHEREAS the Federal Government in the Throne Speech announced a 100 percent GST rebate for all municipalities;
>
> AND WHEREAS as of February 1, the GST rebate will be accumulated for distribution to municipalities;
>
> AND WHEREAS it is estimated that the City of Winnipeg will see $7.5 million per year in additional revenues;
>
> AND WHEREAS this money is found money and was not considered part of the 2004 budget;
>
> AND WHEREAS John Godfrey, secretary of state for cities, has stated “the new funding is expected to target environmental and social projects…..it would be directed to infrastructure, not operating money”;
>
> AND WHEREAS the City has a huge deficit in Infrastructure repair, particularly in Sidewalk repair, boulevard tree planting, playground equipment and residential streets,
>
> AND WHEREAS other Departments such as Community Services and Transit have a desperate need for additional funding;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council dedicate all GST rebate monies to "new" capital infrastructure programs, that are not part of the projected operating or capital budgets (and forwarded to Executive Policy Committee and Council),
>
> AND BE IT FURTHUR RESOLVED that the Administration identify a number of projects to which Council could apply this money, and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services in time for the 2004 operating budget deliberations.