Agenda - Executive Policy Committee - March 17, 2004

REPORTS

Item No. 15 Executive Policy Committee - Operating Budget Recommendations File FE(2004)

On February 24, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee tabled the Preliminary 2004 to 2006 Operating Budget, which contained the following recommendations:

1. That the Preliminary 2004 to 2006 Operating Budget be forwarded to all Members of Council for their review and approval.

2. That the City's 2004 mill rate remain at the 2002 and 2003 level of 29.686.

3. That the City's business tax rate for 2004 remain frozen at the 1996 level of 9.75%.

4. That $4,092,000.00 in previously approved 2004 capital projects be held back and not proceeded with to reduce debt and finance charges in the tax-supported operating budget, and that these projects be referred to the 2005 capital budget process.

5. That the full benefits of the GST rebate flow to the tax-supported budget and that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the recommendation.

6. That a new investment management fee policy for reserve funds managed by the Treasury Branch of Corporate Finance be approved effective January 1, 2004, as follows:

   A. An investment management fee of 20 basis points (1/5 of 1%) will be levied annually on the reserve funds managed on a cash or short-term basis (investments of two years and less) by the Treasury Branch of Corporate Finance; and

   B. An investment management fee of 10 basis points (1/10 of 1%) will be levied annually on the reserve funds managed on a long-term basis (investments of more than two years) by the Treasury Branch of Corporate Finance.

7. That the transfers to / from utility operations and reserves, as well as the fees and charges outlined in the tax-supported budget submission be approved.

8. That the Administration be directed to report on a full cost recovery solid waste user pay system to be implemented in 2005 on a revenue neutral basis, that is, with a corresponding reduction in property taxes.

9. That the City enter into discussions with the Province for a single, self-sustaining assessment authority for the Province of Manitoba for implementation in 2005.

10. That the City negotiate with the Province for equitable cost sharing of services, and/or the authority to introduce alternative sources of revenue in order to reduce reliance on property tax revenue.

11. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law to implement the above recommendations.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 15, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee is scheduled to hear public delegations on the preliminary 2004 to 2006 Operating Budget.

On February 24, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee referred the Preliminary 2004 to 2006 Operating Budget to the following budget process timetable, namely:

February 26 to March 12, 2004	Standing Policy Committees - Review
March 15, 2004	Executive Policy Committee - Delegations
March 17, 2004	Executive Policy Committee - Recommendations to Council
March 23, 2004	Council Meeting