Minutes – Riel Community Committee – August 28, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Future Services Account Funds and Accrued Interest

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Riel Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

1. Refer to the 2027 budget process, an approach under which interest accrued on funds held for each future services project is retained for the benefit of that project.

2. Commission an independent legal opinion regarding the legal basis for retaining future services account funds and accrued interest, including whether such retention may constitute a breach of trust, or fiduciary duty, or be contrary to the 2020 judicial decision establishing that fees collected for a special purpose cannot be diverted to other uses.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Allard to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg maintains a Future Services account that contains roughly $14 million in monies paid in by landowners towards specific future projects (ex: road paving);

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has retained money in this account since the 1970's for some projects without the projects being initiated;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg accumulates interest and a dividend from these funds that are applied to general revenue;

AND WHEREAS profiting from interest provides a deterrent for the City of Winnipeg to perform the intended work stipulated for future services funds;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg cannot use these funds for any purpose other than the stipulated project, yet interest is applied to general revenue;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg recently performed works at the intersection of Abinojii Mikanah and St Anne's Road without using future services funds paid by Home Depot in 2009;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to:

1. Refer to the 2027 budget process, an approach under which interest accrued on funds held for each future services project is retained for the benefit of that project.

2. Commission an independent legal opinion regarding the legal basis for retaining future services account funds and accrued interest, including whether such retention may constitute a breach of trust, or fiduciary duty, or be contrary to the 2020 judicial decision establishing that fees collected for a special purpose cannot be diverted to other uses.

Carried

Councillor Mayes resumed the Chair.