REPORTS

Item No. 20 Future Services Account Funds and Accrued Interest

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development considered the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee, and recommended to Council:

1. That an approach under which interest is prospectively accrued on funds held for each future services project is retained for the benefit of that project, be referred to the 2027 Budget Review Process.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to conduct an annual review process of Future Services accounts for accuracy and relevance and consider a sunset period for funds and interest.

3. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to commission an independent legal opinion regarding the legal basis for retaining future services account funds and accrued interest.

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

Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – September 9, 2026

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Santos,

That Rule 51(1.1) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended to allow a submission made by Councillor Mayes received after 12:00 noon on the business day prior to the meeting, to be included in the minutes.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Dobson,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg maintains a Future Services account that contains roughly $26 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 records interest from these funds in general revenue;

AND WHEREAS interest is not accruing to help offset inflationary increases on intended work;

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 following be recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That an approach under which interest is prospectively accrued on funds held for each future services project is retained for the benefit of that project, be referred to the 2027 Budget Review Process.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to conduct an annual review process of Future Services accounts for accuracy and relevance and consider a sunset period for funds and interest.

3. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to commission an independent legal opinion regarding the legal basis for retaining future services account funds and accrued interest.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

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

Carried

Councillor Mayes, St. Vital Ward, submitted a communication in support of the matter.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On August 28, 2026, the Riel Community Committee passed the following motion:

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.