

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
December 19, 2011**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

1. POSITIVELY PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

The Positively Public campaign continues to educate the public and CUPE members about the value of public services and the role they play in building strong and healthy communities.

The Local continues to air radio and television ads as well as print ads in the City of Winnipeg leisure guide, community newspapers and other publications. The Local also continues to send letters to the editor regarding specific issues.

2. CITY OF WINNIPEG CAPITAL BUDGET PROCESS

On December 1, I attended the Standing Policy Committee meeting on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works regarding the Capital Budget. Presentations were made by the Directors of the Water and Waste Department, the Public Works Department and the Transit Department.

The Preliminary 2012 Annual Capital Budget and the 2013 – 2017 Five Year Capital Forecast is the City's blue print for spending.

Chris Lorenc, President and CEO, from the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association spoke about and cited the City's growing infrastructure debt and a need for solutions.

While the plan includes some big spending on roads (\$77 million to twin a section of Plessis Road), overall spending on residential streets, sidewalks, shoulders and back lanes is down to \$30.8 million, compared with \$42.9 million this year.

Members of Council argued that the proposed capital budget does not address the backlog of residential streets, lanes and sidewalks in need of repair.

Councillors Jenny Gerbasi, Brian Mayes, John Orlikow, Harvey Smith, Ross Eadie and Mike Pagtakhan voted against the capital budget.

3. SERVICE SHARING AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICES TO NEIGHBOURING MUNICIPALITIES

On December 14th, City Council voted to give authority to the CAO, Phil Sheegl, to negotiate service sharing agreements in accordance with the “Service Sharing Policy” and “Basic Terms for Service Sharing Agreements for the Provision of Water and Sewer Services to Neighbouring Municipalities”. The motion also called for all future negotiated service sharing agreements or amended service sharing agreements to be approved by city Council with the exception of West St. Paul, which was previously negotiated by the CAO.

The Councillors that voted against the motion were: Jenny Gerbasi, John Orkilow, Ross Eadie, Mike Pagtakhan, and Harvey Smith.

There were also two other motions dealing with this issue that were defeated. You can find all three motions and how council voted attached to this report.

4. \$2.6 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT RE: POLICE HEADQUARTERS

On December 7, council's executive policy committee, voted unanimously to approve a \$2.6 million untendered contract for the services of an Ottawa-based structural engineering firm surrounding the conversion of the Canada Post building into the new police headquarters.

The Canada Post purchase, which was signed off in 2009, has already paid eight firms a total of \$5.5 million in design work for the \$155-million dollar conversion job.

It was reported by the media that this item was slated to go to council for approval on December 14, however, it was not included as an item on the agenda.

5. CHIEF PEGUIS TRAIL

The Chief Peguis road ribbon cutting took place on Friday, December 2nd. This “suburban beltway” was first recommended by the Winnipeg Area Transportation Study back in 1968.

The media reported that the City faces an overall \$3.8 million dollar infrastructure deficit for repairs to existing roads, bridges, buildings, water mains and sewers.

With the Building Canada Fund set to expire in 2014, Ottawa says it's preparing a new pot of money to pay for infrastructure renewal.

6. NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND ACTION AGAINST WOMEN

On December 6th, I attended the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) Day of Mourning ceremony to commemorate the lives of the 14 women killed in Montreal in 1989, simply because they were women. We also remember all the women and girls who are murdered or experience violence by their partners, family members and strangers throughout this country. On this day, we recommit to take action against all forms of violence against women and girls in our society.

7. SEASON'S GREETINGS

I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support and work throughout this past year. As well, a heartfelt thanks to the Unit Executives, Chairs of Local 500 Committees, National Servicing Representatives and staff of Local 500. We have had a very busy year and no doubt the Local will be faced with more challenges in the New Year.

Conclusion:

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: J. Lepine

City of Winnipeg Council Meeting of December 14, 2011

Reference : EPC – Nov 30 2011 – Item 5

Motion #1

Moved by: Swandel

Seconded by: Vandal

THAT Item 5 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated November 30, 2011 be amended by deleting the words “**and finalize**” from Recommendation 1 as shown below and by adding new Recommendations 2 and 3 after Recommendation 1 as shown below.

1. That the Basic Terms for Service Sharing Agreements for the Provision of Water and Sewer Services to Neighbouring Municipalities be approved, and the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to negotiate ~~and finalize~~ service sharing agreements in accordance with the “Service Sharing Policy” and “Basic Terms for Service Sharing Agreements for the Provision of Water and Sewer Services to Neighbouring Municipalities” (as outlined in the Attachment to the Public Service report), together with such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Chief Administrative Officer to meet the intent of the Service Sharing Agreements and to protect the interests of the City.
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated authority to finalize the service sharing agreement with the rural Municipality of West St. Paul per the Basic Terms for Service Sharing Agreements as contained herein.
3. That all future negotiated service sharing agreements or amended service sharing agreements be approved by city Council.
4. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to affect the intent of the foregoing.

Recorded vote: carried

Yea- 11

Nay- 5

Councillors who voted “nay” – Gerbasi, Orkilow, Eadie, Pagtakhan, Smith

Motion #2

Moved by: Gerbasi

Seconded by: Orlikow

WHEREAS entering into services sharing agreements between the City of Winnipeg and Capital Region municipalities will result in significantly expanded growth outside the city limits;

AND WHEREAS the selling of water and sewer services will lead to a loss in the City of Winnipeg's residential, commercial and industrial tax base;

AND WHEREAS expanded exurban development will put an increased demand on city infrastructure and services;

AND WHEREAS Council is democratically elected to have the final say in major decisions that impact Winnipeggers, such as the volume of water to be sold and treated, and the extent and nature of regional developments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the recommendations of the Water and Sewer Service Sharing with Neighbouring Municipalities report be amended such that the words "and finalize" be deleted from clause one and the following words be added to the clause:

"And that in instances where a request for service sharing is within the existing policy, the Administration will prepare a report to the S.P.C. on Property and development for Council's consideration and endorsement."

Recorded vote: lost

Yea - 6

Nay - 10

Councillors who voted "yea" – Gerbasi, Orkilow, Eadie, Pagtakhan, Smith, Mayes

Motion #3

Moved by: Pagtakhan

Seconded by: Gerbasi

WHEREAS the Service Sharing report states under “implications of the recommendations”: that “the revenue sharing would be allocated to the City of Winnipeg regional roads capital budget”; AND WHEREAS Service Sharing Agreements will facilitate increased residential, commercial and other development in the exurban communities leading to a decline in the City of Winnipeg’s tax base

AND WHEREAS increased traffic flow into the city will cause additional wear and tear on existing infrastructure

AND WHEREAS expanding regional road capacity is a “double benefit” to those who live outside our city and do not pay taxes but will be cutting through the city to utilize city services and employment.

AND WHEREAS there is a grave need to invest in sustainable infrastructure such as public transit and fixing existing local streets and sidewalks

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the revenue sharing from service sharing agreements be dedicated to the public transit improvements and fixing existing local streets and sidewalks.

Recorded vote: lost

Yea - 6

Nay – 10

Councillors who voted “yea” – Gerbasi, Orkilow, Eadie, Pagtakhan, Smith, Mayes