Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Finance – November 9, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Financial Status Report and Forecast to September 30, 2017

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Financial Status Report to September 30, 2017 be received as information.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Financial Status Report and Forecast to September 30, 2017

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Finance

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
P.Olafson	Mike Ruta	M. Ruta	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Financial Status Report and Forecast to September 30, 2017 currently anticipates a projected surplus of \$0.4 million. This has remained relatively consistent with the projected surplus of \$1.0 million previously reported (as at August 31).

The Public Service anticipates that the projected surplus will increase over the remainder of the year based on financial improvements typically realized from the third quarter forecast. The average change over the last five years between September and year-end is \$5.9 million, ranging from a \$5.7 million decrease to a \$15.6 million increase. Having said that, some of the possible improvements to be realized may have already been recognized through the cost mitigation measures described in this report.

At the March 13, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance, the Public Service tabled a report that provided information on the 2017 cost mitigation measures for the City of Winnipeg. The report outlined targeted cost reductions for each tax-supported department, as well as for Transit and Water and Waste. This Financial Status Report includes \$9.5 million in tax-supported budget savings through these measures.

The 2017 tax-supported budget includes a transfer up to \$5 million from the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund to the General Revenue Fund. As a result of the 2016 deficit elimination measures and a forecasted short fall of net taxes added for 2017, the Financial Stabilization Reserve is forecasted to afford only \$0.5 million at this time, which is included in this report.

Based on the surplus projected in this report, no additional transfer from the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund is anticipated at this time. This will continue to be monitored for the remainder of the year as an additional transfer will cause the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund to fall below the minimum 6% target of tax-supported expenditures. Council approval would be required to allow this reserve to fall below this level and a replenishment plan would be required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Financial Status Report to September 30, 2017 be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On December 17, 1997, City Council approved clause 1 of the report of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, which requires that a periodic report be approved on a quarterly basis by the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues. Since that time, the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues has been renamed Standing Policy Committee on Finance.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

At this time, the Public Service anticipates a projected surplus of \$0.4 million. The Public Service anticipates that the projected surplus will increase over the remainder of the year based on financial improvements typically realized from that forecasted for September 30, as well as through continued efforts to control expenses without impacting the delivery of core services. The Public Service monitors the General Revenue Fund on a regular basis.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The forecasted results at August and the year-end position before final transfers for the General Revenue Fund for the past five years were as follows:

Year	Surplus (deficit) in	Surplus (deficit) in millions						
	millions at September 30	at December 31 before						
		Final Transfers						
2016	\$ 0.6	\$ (5.1)						
2015	8.7	16.3						
2014	(14.9)	0.7						
2013	(5.7)	(1.8)						
2012	7.7	15.9						

2017 Cost Mitigation Measures – Update

At the March 13, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance, the Public Service tabled a report that provided information on the 2017 cost mitigation measures for the City of Winnipeg. The report outlined targeted cost reductions for each tax-supported department, as well as for Transit and Water and Waste. Due largely to record snowfall in December, the 2016 fiscal year ended in a tax-supported deficit prior to Council approved deficit elimination measures. The Council adopted budget for 2017 had estimated a surplus in 2016 of \$9.5 million. The City must now manage this shortfall and find \$9.5 million in savings in addition to

the efficiencies' savings included in the 2017 tax-supported budget. This Financial Status Report includes \$9.5 million in tax-supported budget savings through these measures.

In its 2016 year-end Financial Status Report for the General Revenue Fund, a \$5.1 million deficit was reported. As a result of previously Council approved deficit elimination measures, \$1.4 million was retained in the General Revenue Fund in respect of net supplementary taxes and tax roll adjustments, \$0.4 million was also retained in the General Revenue Fund in respect of interest net of investment management fees, and \$3.3 million was transferred from the Financial Stabilization Reserve in order to balance for 2016.

The 2017 tax-supported budget includes a transfer of up to \$5.0 million from the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund to the General Revenue Fund. As a result of the deficit elimination measures employed in 2016 and a \$2.0 million shortfall in net taxes added forecasted for 2017, the Financial Stabilization Reserve is forecasted to afford only \$0.5 million at this time and is reflected, as such, in this report.

Based on the surplus projected in this report, no additional transfer from the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund is anticipated at this time. This will continue to be monitored for the remainder of the year as an additional transfer will cause the Financial Stabilization Reserve Fund to fall below the minimum 6% target of tax-supported expenditures. Council approval would be required to allow this reserve to fall below this level and a replenishment plan would be required.

Provincial funding and other

The Province has introduced a new envelope funding model for the City of Winnipeg. In discussions with Provincial representatives, the City was notified that Transit and Winnipeg Police Services grants would be consistent with 2016 actual funding without inflationary increases resulting in a forecasted budget shortfall in 2017.

Transit

Transit's financial status has been significantly impacted by changes to the Provincial funding model and less than expected passenger revenue.

The following table depicts summarized financial information for Transit (also see Schedule 4):

	tember recast	2017 udget	Fo	otember orecast oriance	Fo	ugust recast riance
Passenger fares and other revenue Province of Manitoba transfer	\$ 81.6 40.1	\$ 87.9 48.3	\$	(6.3) (8.2)	\$	(6.2) (8.2)
TOTAL	121.7	136.2		(14.5)		(14.4)
Expenses Transfer to SWRT Payment Reserve	 179.6 3.4	 182.3 5.1		2.7 1.7		2.2 1.7
TOTAL	 183.0	 187.4		4.4		3.9
DEFICIT BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	(61.3)	(51.2)		(10.1)		(10.5)
Transfer to Bus Replacement Reserve Transfer from General Revenue Fund	 - 56.3	 (3.9) 55.1		3.9 1.2		3.9 1.6
Deficit	(5.0)	-		(5.0)		(5.0)
Retained Earnings, beginning of the year Allocated to Capital Spending	 12.2 (7.1)	 12.2 (11.1)		4.0		- 4.0
Retained Earnings, end of year	\$ 0.1	\$ 1.1	\$	(1.0)	\$	(1.0)

In May, the Province tabled Bill 36, *The Budget Implementation and Tax Statutes Amendment Act, 2017.* The Act repealed the 50/50 funding formula relating to Transit operating costs. The reduced level of provincial funding combined with the decreased transfer related to the Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass Payment Reserve has resulted in a shortfall in the Provincial transfer of \$8.2 million.

Transit is also experiencing a forecasted shortfall of \$5.6 million relating to declining passenger revenue (included in the \$6.3 million shortfall in passenger fares and other revenue disclosed in the table above). Lower ridership than planned is the primary reason for this. Compared to 2015, sample passenger counts indicate weekday ridership has declined by 9%. Ridership is influenced by many factors such as gasoline

prices, demographics, weather, etc. Decrease in ridership is a national and North American trend and has been reported by many cities including Calgary, Ottawa, and Toronto.

The department is forecasting \$4.4 million in cost savings to help offset the impact of reduced ridership and Provincial funding. Included in this total is a reduced transfer of \$1.7 million to the Southwest Rapid Transitway (Stage 2) and Pembina Highway Underpass Payment Reserve. In 2015, the Province committed to funding \$1.7 million towards eligible bus purchases and has recently indicated they would not be providing this previously committed funding.

The department also is contributing \$1.8 million of \$9.5 million, to the City's cost mitigation measures, thereby reducing the transfer from the General Revenue Fund. It is accomplishing this through a combination of reducing the transfer to the Bus Replacement Reserve (\$0.4 million) and using a portion of retained earnings to partially fund 2017 operations (\$1.4 million, which was approved at the June 21, 2017 Council meeting).

In order to reduce the financial impact to the General Revenue Fund, the Transit department has also identified additional savings options to help balance its budget. A report with savings options tabled at the September 15, 2017 meeting of Standing Policy Committee on Finance was approved by Council on September 28, 2017. The additional savings options include a decrease in transfer to the Bus Replacement Reserve of \$3.5 million and a deferral of capital spending utilizing retained earnings of \$3.6 million. These options have been included in this report which results in a decrease, of the transfer to Transit from the General Revenue Fund to \$1.2 million, as noted in the table on the previous page, as well as schedules 2 and 3.

Police Services

The Police Services has been notified that it will not receive \$0.6 million relating to 2016 programs. Further, as a result of the new funding model, an additional shortfall of \$0.6 million for 2017 programs exists. The total impact to the Police Department's net revenues is \$1.2 million related to 2016 and 2017 Provincial funding decisions for the cadet and helicopter maintenance programs.

Fire Paramedic Service

The Fire Paramedic Service has been in discussions with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) regarding funding for ambulance services for both 2017 and future years. These discussions are ongoing and while no decisive funding agreement has been reached, the WRHA has advised that 2017 funding will continue as previously expected. This forecast has been prepared on that basis assuming the current funding model will continue. If this were to subsequently change, there will be a significant impact to the forecast presented.

Summary

In addition to the operating budget implications noted above, capital budgets will be impacted. The City and the Province are continuing discussions regarding Provincial funding to the City for 2017 and 2018.

Assessment Appeals

Consistent with past reports, included in the Assessment and Taxation Department's forecast is an additional provision of \$2.2 million concerning outstanding assessment appeals (for a total forecasted 2017 expense of \$6.3 million). For accounting purposes, the department estimates a value representing what outstanding assessment appeals may cost the City. The additional provision made in 2017 represents the estimated shortfall for this account as of December 31, 2016.

Under the previous four-year assessment cycle, the number of appeals outstanding decreased in the third and fourth year which allowed the department, tax agents and the Municipal Board to schedule and complete a larger number of appeals prior to the end of the assessment cycle. The City is currently in its fourth two-year assessment cycle and a trend is developing with respect to the pace Municipal Board Appeals are scheduled, heard and determined. At August 31, 2017, 1,455 assessment appeals are outstanding.

The liability to the City is also impacted by interest applied to the outstanding appeals. Pursuant to *The Municipal Act (Interest on Excess Taxes Regulation 51/97)*, interest payable on tax refunds resulting from successful appeals is set at 4.75% per year.

A recent analysis of the assessment appeal liability indicates that another \$4.6 million is required to fully fund the estimated liability. This unfunded liability will be considered in the 2018 budget process.

Other

Corporate Finance Department has prepared this report showing forecasted revenues and expenses to December 31, 2017, for the General Revenue Fund, Utility Funds and Municipal Accommodations Fund. This information was obtained from departments and was based on actual data as at September 30, 2017.

Attachments included are the following:

Schedule 1 – The City of Winnipeg – General Revenue Fund – Financial Status Report and Forecast:

Schedule 2 – The City of Winnipeg – General Revenue Fund – Budget Variances;

Schedule 3 – The City of Winnipeg – General Revenue Fund – Reconciliation of March to June Forecast;

Schedule 4 - The City of Winnipeg - Summary by Fund; and

Schedule 5 – The City of Winnipeg – General Revenue Fund – Net Mill Rate by Department.

FINANCIAL IMPACT Financial Impact Statement Date: October 26, 2017			
Financial Impact Statement	Date: October 26, 2017		

Project Name:

Financial Status Report September 30, 2017

COMMENTS:

This report is prepared for information purposes.

Melissa Wensel

Acting Manager of Financial Reporting and Accounting Services

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

All City of Winnipeg Departments

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

01-3 Prosperity Direction 1 Provide Efficient and Focused Civic Administration and Governance. This report supports demonstration of accountability by the City's public service through reporting.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Corporate Finance
Division: Corporate Controller's
Prepared by: Melissa Wensel
Date: October 26, 2017

File No: Attachments:

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - GENERAL REVENUE FUND FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT AND FORECAST

Schedule 1

Actual for the nine month period ended September 30, 2017 forecasted for the year ending December 31, 2017 (in thousands of dollars) (unaudited)

	Adopted Budget	Forecast	Variance From Budget	Year to Date Actual
REVENUES				
Taxation	\$ 678,845	\$ 677,878	\$ (967)	\$ 508,726
Government transfers	127,789	125,936	(1,853)	114,853
Sale of goods and services	62,796 59,210	61,058	(1,738)	45,133
Regulation fees Other	39,210	56,901 39,835	(2,309) 714	40,264 2,468
Payments-in-lieu of taxes	36,134	36,135	1	27,060
Interest	34,102	35,751	1,649	31,085
Transfer from other funds	41,512	28,434	(13,078)	14,926
Total Revenues	1,079,509	1,061,928	(17,581)	784,515
EXPENSES				
Assessment and taxation	20,856	21,632	(776)	12,792
Audit	1,379	1,249	130	661
Chief administrative offices	4,353	4,195	158	3,296
City clerks	14,947	14,635	312	11,321
Community services	114,892	112,223	2,669	83,600
Corporate	59,197	59,425	(228)	45,219
Corporate finance	9,073	8,255	818	6,335
Corporate support services	35,996	34,830	1,166	24,810
Council	3,532	3,477	55	2,466
Fire paramedic service	199,219	196,190	3,029	145,435
Legal services	3,078	3,108	(30)	2,361
Mayor's office	1,863	1,782	81	756
Museums	1,031	1,031	-	1,010
Planning, property and development	45,598	44,538	1,060	31,003
Police services	288,000	284,616	3,384	212,666
Policy and strategic initiatives	812	775	37	489
Public works	229,991	225,820	4,171	179,527
Street lighting	13,399	12,316	1,083	9,250
Water and waste	32,293	31,437	856	20,728
Total Expenses	1,079,509	1,061,534	17,975	793,725
FORECASTED SURPLUS	\$ -	\$ 394	\$ 394	\$ (9,210)

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ See Schedule 5 for comparable departmental view.

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - GENERAL REVENUE FUND

BUDGET VARIANCES ARISING FROM THE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 FORECAST

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

(in millions of dollars) (unaudited)

Unfavourable variance in Corporate Accounts is mostly related to the following:

Unfavourable variance in Corporate Accounts is mostly related to the	ne following	; :		
 a further transfer to Transit is forecasted due to: lower provincial funding. decrease in fare and other revenue. reduction in transfer to the SWRT Payment Reserve. other expenses. approval of savings measures by Council: 	\$	(8.2) (6.3) 1.7 2.7		
· reduced transfer to Bus Replacement Reserve.	3.5	7 1	(2.0)	
 utilization of retained earnings cost mitigation measures relating to Transit: reduced transfer to Bus Replacement Reserve. utilization of retained earnings. Net additional transfer to Transit 	3.6	7.1 0.4 1.4	$ \begin{array}{c} (3.0) \\ \hline 1.8 \\ \hline (1.2) \end{array} $	
 a shortfall in the transfer from the General Purpose Reserve due to the 2016 deficit. a decrease in budgeted savings. a shortfall in the transfer from the Financial Stabilization Reserve savings from adjustments to provisions. savings in debt and finance charges. other. 			(9.5) (7.7) (4.5) 8.0 1.5 0.2	\$ (13.2)
The Street Lighting's favourable variance is mainly due to light and power cost savings.		1.1		
 Corporate Finance: As part of the cost mitigation measures, Corporate Finance is reporting savings to expenses. 	0.5			
 The remaining favourable variance is mostly related to savings f higher capital construction interest and other revenues and reco 	1.2	1.7		
The Police Services department's favourable variance is mainly due savings associated with the new collective agreement with the Winnip Association. These savings are offset by lower Provincial funding re				
the cadet program and police helicopter.	υ			2.1

Schedule 2

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - GENERAL REVENUE FUND Schedule 2 **BUDGET VARIANCES ARISING FROM THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 FORECAST** FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 (CONTINUED) (in millions of dollars) (unaudited) **Community Services:** · As part of the cost mitigation measures, Community Services is reporting savings to expenses. 1.1 • The remaining favourable variance is mostly related to savings from position vacancies and revenues exceeding budget. 1.9 3.0 **Public Works:** · As part of the cost mitigation measures, Public Works is reporting savings in expenses and additional revenues. 3.0 The remaining variance is mostly related to savings from position vacancies and insect control expenditures due to favourable weather conditions. These savings are offset by an unfavourable variance in snow clearing

program expenditures, relating to the ongoing snow clearing and removal

from December 2016.

Forecasted Surplus

Other departmental cost mitigation measures.

Other departmental revenues and expenses.

3.0

3.1

(0.4)

0.4

⁽¹⁾ See Schedule 1 and 5 for breakdown of other departmental revenues and expenses.

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - GENERAL REVENUE FUND Schedule 3 RECONCILIATION OF AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER FORECAST **SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 FORECAST** FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 (in millions of dollars) (unaudited) Forecasted General Revenue Fund Surplus - August 30, 2017 \$ 1.0 Unfavourable variance in Corporate Accounts is mostly related to the following: · a decrease in budgeted savings. (1.9)savings from debt and finance charges. 0.6 other. 0.5 (0.8)Other departmental revenues and expenses. 0.2 Forecasted General Revenue Fund Surplus - September 30, 2017 0.4

Schedule 4

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - SUMMARY BY FUND FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT AND FORECAST

Actual for the nine month period ended September 30, 2017 forecasted for the year ending December 31, 2017 (in thousands of dollars) (unaudited)

	Adopted Budget	Forecast	Variance From Budget	Actual		
General Revenue Fund Revenues Expenses	\$ 1,079,509 1,079,509	\$ 1,061,928 1,061,534	\$ (17,581) 17,975	\$	784,515 793,725	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 	\$ 394	\$ 394	\$	(9,210)	
Transit System Revenues Expenses Transfer to	\$ 136,158 182,246	\$ 121,728 179,609	\$ (14,430) 2,637	\$	91,297 126,708	
SWRT Payment Reserve	 (5,100)	(3,400)	1,700 (10,093)		$\frac{(3,400)}{(38,811)}$	
Transfer to Bus Replacement Reserve Transfer from General	(3,938)	-	3,938		-	
Revenue Fund	 55,126	 56,336	1,210		43,486	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 	\$ (4,945)	\$ (4,945)	\$	4,675	
Waterworks System						
Revenues Expenses	\$ 128,502 77,401 51,101	\$ 125,567 75,162 50,405	\$ (2,935) 2,239 (696)	\$	92,493 62,021 30,472	
Transfer to Water Main Renewal Reserve General Revenue Fund	 (16,500) (14,943)	 (16,500) (14,943)			(8,250)	
Surplus Prior to Principle Debt Repayments	19,658	18,962	(696)		22,222	
Principle Debt Repayments	 (4,462)	(4,462)	 _		_	
Surplus	\$ 15,196	\$ 14,500	\$ (696)	\$	22,222	

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - SUMMARY BY FUND FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT AND FORECAST

Actual for the nine month period ended September 30, 2017 forecasted for the year ending December 31, 2017 (in thousands of dollars) (unaudited)

		dopted Budget	F	orecast	ariance From Budget	Actual
Sewage Disposal System						
Revenues	\$	181,250	\$	175,582	\$ (5,668)	\$ 129,239
Expenses		87,002		81,113	 5,889	68,013
_		94,248		94,469	221	61,226
Transfer to Reserves Transfer to General		(37,870)		(36,738)	1,132	(12,122)
Revenue Fund		(32,090)		(31,604)	 486	(8,579)
Surplus	\$	24,288		26,127	 1,839	 40,525
Solid Waste Disposal						
Revenues	\$	44,483	\$	46,310	\$ 1,827	\$ 29,104
Expenses		42,191		39,019	 3,172	 23,557
T C . D		2,292		7,291	4,999	5,547
Transfer to Reserve		(377)		(1,350)	 (973)	 (234)
Surplus Prior to						
Principle Debt Repayments		1,915		5,941	4,026	5,313
Principle Debt Repayments	-	(2,179)		(2,196)	 (17)	
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$	(264)	\$	3,745	\$ 4,009	\$ 5,313
Municipal Accommodations	Fund					
Revenues	\$	75,242	\$	74,849	\$ (393)	\$ 54,266
Expenses		64,309		63,842	467	43,649
		10,933		11,007	74	10,617
Transfer to:						
General Revenue Fund		(10,933)		(11,007)	(74)	 (160)
Surplus	\$		\$		\$ 	\$ 10,457

Schedule 5

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG - GENERAL REVENUE FUND FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT AND FORECAST

forecasted for the year ending December 31, 2017 (in thousands of dollars) (unaudited)

		R	evenues				1	Expenses		Net Mill Rate
	 Adopted Budget]	Forecast	1	Variance Budget/ Vorecast	Adopted Budget		Forecast	Variance Budget/ Forecast	Variance Budget/ Forecast
Assessment and taxation	\$ 673,002	\$	673,573	\$	571	\$ 20,856	\$	21,632	\$ (776)	\$ (205)
Audit	-		-		-	1,379		1,249	130	130
Chief administrative offices	-		-		-	4,353		4,195	158	158
City clerks	531		976		445	14,947		14,635	312	757
Community services	17,792		18,146		354	114,892		112,223	2,669	3,023
Corporate	137,876		124,867		(13,009)	59,197		59,425	(228)	(13,237)
Corporate finance	5,439		6,307		868	9,073		8,255	818	1,686
Corporate support services	2,096		1,596		(500)	35,996		34,830	1,166	666
Council	-		-		-	3,532		3,477	55	55
Fire paramedic service	64,330		61,369		(2,961)	199,219		196,190	3,029	68
Legal services	653		714		61	3,078		3,108	(30)	31
Mayor's office	-		-		-	1,863		1,782	81	81
Museums	-		-		-	1,031		1,031	-	-
Planning, property and development	41,424		40,819		(605)	45,598		44,538	1,060	455
Police services	47,104		45,770		(1,334)	288,000		284,616	3,384	2,050
Policy and strategic initiatives	-		-		-	812		775	37	37
Public works	76,462		75,244		(1,218)	229,991		225,820	4,171	2,953
Street lighting	-		-		-	13,399		12,316	1,083	1,083
Waterworks and waste	 12,800		12,547		(253)	32,293		31,437	 856	603
Forecasted Surplus	\$ 1,079,509	\$	1,061,928	\$	(17,581)	\$ 1,079,509	\$	1,061,534	\$ 17,975	\$ 394