

ITEM 8

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 50

COUNCIL MEETING Aug. 14/72

8. Re: Use of Consulting Engineers on a Stand-by Basis

The Municipal Engineer has reviewed all outstanding design requirements in the Engineering Department. There are currently 60 requests for design, most of which originated in 1971, but some dating as far back as 1968. Approximately 20 of the total have reached the critical stage and are required for work that is scheduled for completion this year.

The principal reason for the delay in the preparation of design is the lack of sufficient staff to do the work in the Design Division of the Engineering Department. It has therefore been proposed that two consulting engineering firms be used on a stand-by basis to assist with peak loads that cannot be adequately handled by Municipal Design Engineers. One firm would be engaged in the design of miscellaneous roads and lanes and the second in design of miscellaneous water and sewer installations.

The Municipal Engineer and his staff have interviewed three consulting firms which are considered to be eminently qualified for the design of work that is required. The firms are Web Engineering Limited, Vector Engineering Limited, and Dayton & Knight Consulting Engineers. Web and Vector engineering firms were very interested and promised to provide good service on a stand-by basis. Dayton & Knight advised that out-of-town commitments would interfere with their ability to render an acceptable level of stand-by service. As a result, Vector Engineering Limited will be used for the stand-by design of miscellaneous roads and lanes and Web Engineering Limited for the design of miscellaneous water and sewer installations.

It is difficult to assess what the cost of using the consulting firms on a stand-by basis for the remainder of this year will be. However, it is proposed that on each occasion that services are requested, the firm shall supply the Engineering Department with an estimate of the cost. Payment shall be in accordance with the scale of minimum fees as published by the Association of Professional Engineers of B.C. Requisitions raised for each project to be designed by the consulting engineers will be charged to Outside Consulting Budget Item No. 22-01-17. The budget item may have to be adjusted at Recast Budget time in accordance with the extent to which consulting services will be used in the future.

The Engineering Department checks and approves all work that is done by consulting firms. One of the Department's most urgent assignments at the present time is to check the design by N. D. Lea & Associates for works already under contract to J. Cewe Limited (Contract #15), scheduled for completion by October of this year. As the only road technician on staff is already engaged in checking other consulting engineering design, the Engineer is planning to engage Vector Engineering Limited on a stand-by basis to check these designs on his behalf. As the amount of time required for this type of work (checking design) is extremely difficult to determine beforehand to produce an estimate, the Engineer anticipates having to raise a requisition at least for this first bit of consulting service without an estimate; in the future estimates will be received for all miscellaneous consulting services on the proposed stand-by basis. The Manager has authorized the Engineer to engage Vector Engineering Limited without an estimate on the understanding that the cost will not exceed \$1,000.

This is for the information of Council.

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