

ITEM 15  
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 55  
COUNCIL MEETING Aug. 19/74

Re: Fertilizer for Topsoil  
(Item 16, Report No. 53, August 6, 1974)

On August 6, 1974, Council received a report regarding the quality of topsoil that the Municipality provides for restoration of boulevards following completion of a local improvement program. Council during consideration on this matter inquired about the feasibility of including fertilizer with the topsoil. The Municipal Engineer's reply to this inquiry is contained in the following report.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council reaffirm the policy whereby respective property owners are expected to provide and apply seed, fertilizer and water to topsoiled boulevards following completion of a local improvement program in their area.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
FROM: MUNICIPAL ENGINEER  
RE: FERTILIZING TOPSOIL

AUGUST 14, 1974

On August 6, 1974, Council received a report regarding topsoil supplied and distributed under Contract #15, 1973. Council requested a further report outlining costs involved if the topsoiled boulevards were to be fertilized.

The cost to fertilize all the boulevards covered by topsoil under Contract #15, 1973 would be as follows:

Materials (fertilizer)	\$1,000.00
Labour and Equipment	\$1,000.00

While the dollar value of this work may not be significantly large in terms of the overall local improvement costs we would take this opportunity to point out some of the practicalities related to such work. In accordance with the Corporation policy most property owners have financed their own fertilizing and seeding and have satisfactory lawns. In order to implement a fertilizing program at this stage, we would have to be selective in our choice of boulevards which would, of course, result in an inconsistency of treatment to taxpayers (this statement applies to local improvements that have already been/ completed).

The acts of fertilizing, seeding and watering should be considered synonymous in terms of time of operation. In other words, to fertilize a seeded boulevard at this stage without immediate watering would in effect be detrimental rather than beneficial to a lawn due to the burning effect of the Nitrogen in the fertilizer as we would have no control over the boulevard watering.

In terms of future local improvement works it would be physically possible to fertilize the topsoil supplied, however, this too has its impracticalities. Fertilizer could be added either at the screening stage or after the soil is spread, however, the time lapse between topsoil distribution and actual grass seeding is often significant.

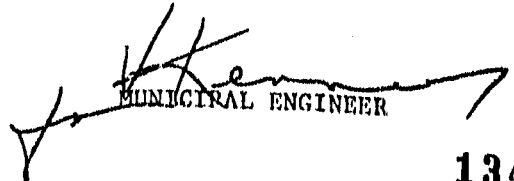
If the topsoil was, say, spread in November/December then the boulevard should not be seeded until April/May by which time rain would have leached or washed out the beneficial effect of the fertilizer.

Property owners receiving current local improvement works are being advised by form letter of the need to seed, fertilize and water their boulevards after completion of the topsoil operation.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council reiterate the policy whereby the application of seed, fertilizer and watering is left up to the respective property owner.

WCS:w1h

  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEER