

Re: Performance of Work on a Fire Hydrant at 17th Avenue

Following is a report from the Municipal Engineer on an inquiry by Council regarding work that was done by a Municipal crew on a fire hydrant at 17th Avenue.

This is for the information of Council.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

July 4, 1974

FROM: MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

RE: FIRE HYDRANT - 17th AVENUE

At the Council meeting June 24 an enquiry was raised regarding the number of employees involved in working on a fire hydrant on 17th Avenue. The Foreman in charge of the crew reports as follows:

"Hydrant No. 1475 on 17th Avenue was covered by approximately 2 or 3 gallons of tar to a depth of as much as 3 inches. Two men, Dennis Lord and John Newcombe spent about three-quarters of an hour scraping this tar off in order to service and paint the hydrant. A third man, Tom Prokopiuk, slashed brush and high grass around the hydrant for approximately 10 to 15 minutes. After the tar was removed the two men spent one-half to three-quarters of an hour servicing and painting said hydrant.

Meanwhile, Neil MacLean and Roy Freeman were measuring up and digging for valve No. 52. They were joined by Tom Prokopiuk when he finished slashing and continued to 19th Avenue where they continued their work on valves. This work took place 28/5/74.

Hydrant No. 566, at the intersection of 17th Avenue and 16th Street was also painted and serviced 28/5/74. The same two men painted and serviced this hydrant, while Roy Freeman and Tom Prokopiuk checked the four valves at the intersection. This was the last hydrant for the day and took approximately one hour to service and paint. When the valves were checked the two men working on them spent the remainder of the time putting away tools and straightening up the truck on my orders. At no time was there any horseplay involved at these two or any other hydrants." Signed G. Smallwood.

Superintendent R. Stevens, in charge of water works maintenance, reports as follows:

"Further to the report prepared by Foreman Smallwood, in charge of the valve and hydrant maintenance crew, I would like to submit the following breakdown of work performed by said crew on 28/5/74 in the a. i.

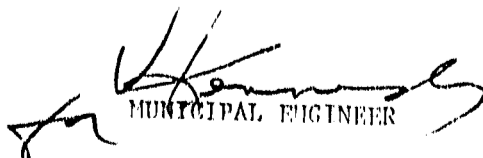
Number of Hydrants Serviced - 9 - Included removing main gate assembly for inspection and greasing of main gate screw and wedge nut, top spindle and threads on all ports. Also, ensuring hydrant opens fully and closes and drains properly.

Number of Hydrants Painted - 4.

Number of Valves Checked - 43 - Turns counted when closing down and opening up to ensure valve closes tight and opens fully. Some valves have to be operated in this manner numerous times before foreign material is worked loose from valve seat.

Number of Valve Boxes Cleaned Out - 14 - Considerable measuring had to be done to make sure that the directions from reference points shown in the water works plat books are the same as shown on the sheets in these books. Red and white markers often are removed due to sidewalk construction and road widening, houses and buildings added onto, demolished, etc. You will appreciate that there could be some idle moments spent when the foreman is in his truck recording all this information on the applicable valve and hydrant maintenance forms. Any time I have visited this crew to check on operations I have never found more than two men doing the actual painting of hydrants and have no reason to dispute any part of Foreman Smallwood's statements." Signed R. Stevens, Superintendent.

This information is submitted to Council to confirm that there are never more than two men doing the actual painting of hydrants and, in fact, on the date in question the water works maintenance crew involved were performing much more maintenance than painting hydrants.

  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEER