

Re: BURNABY JOINT REFUSE COMMITTEE  
 STATUS REPORT NO. 4  
 (Item 7, Report No. 65, October 14, 1975)  
 (Item 13, Report No. 68, October 27, 1975)  
(Item 22, Report No. 70, November 3, 1975)

On October 14, 1975, Council received the first report from the Burnaby Joint Refuse Committee which essentially contained the Committee's objectives and the related framework within which the Committee would conduct its study. Two subsequent reports on the extension of expanding collection of refuse to cover co-operatives and strata title properties were received on October 27 and November 3. The following is a further status report on conclusions that have been reached by the Committee to date:

1. Agreement on Existing Costs - Collection and Disposal of Refuse

The Committee unanimously agreed on the existing costs that are borne by the Corporation for the collection and disposal of refuse. The figures, calculated and expressed in terms of cost per each domestic living unit per annum, are:

Direct collection cost	\$ 23.83
15% overhead allowance	3.57
	<u>27.40</u>
 Disposal	 \$ 3.61

The figures are based on an annual cost and conditions of operations as of November 1, 1975.

Anyone wishing to review the criteria and approach that was used to calculate any of the above figures may do so by contacting a member of the Committee or the Engineering Department.

2. Overhead

Considerable time was spent by the Committee on the question of how the charge for overhead should be determined. Although such a charge does not lend itself to a readily available method of measurement because of the difficulty involved in attempting to identify what proportion of the total resources, such as common use of space and personnel support, should be allocated as overhead to refuse services, it was unanimously agreed that the 15% that is being used at this time is a reasonable charge for the recovery of all non-direct costs, and that it should therefore continue to be used subject to an annual review by the Treasurer and Engineer. This agreement was reached on the understanding that this same figure is to be used as a basis for any future comparisons that may be made on costs.

3. Retention of Auditors to Substantiate Cost Information

Touche Ross and Company, external auditors who perform accounting services for the Municipality, will be formally requested to verify the Committee's data on costs, and also, to offer any other comments that might be appropriate in this regard. Terms of reference are being prepared at this time.

4. Special Pick-Up

The Committee made an effort to determine if the discontinuation of special pick-up caused any problems to the residents of the community. This was done by means of a survey which included a) a review of 57 letters that C.U.P.E. had received from residents on refuse collection and b) a random survey in which persons who had made specific reference to special pick-ups in their correspondence were called on the telephone. Only one of the persons contacted said that a serious inconvenience resulted from the decision to discontinue special pick-ups.

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Re: Burnaby Joint Refuse Committee - Status Report No. 4

4. Special Pick-Up - (Cont'd.)

Work crews who collect refuse and the administrative staff in the Engineering Department advise that they are not receiving any complaints about the lack of special pick-ups at this time.

The Committee's evaluation of the matter resulted in a conclusion that public acceptance of the change in policy regarding special pick-ups has on the whole been very good. It is the Committee's opinion that residents have generally adapted to the change by breaking down bulk items into small units which can then be properly secured for regular pick-up by crews on normally scheduled routes.

It should be noted that the Municipality is accommodating the special needs of persons who, because of age or physical condition, are not able to carry garbage cans to the property line. When the need for such assistance is called to the attention of works crews, they will go onto private property for the purpose of picking up and returning the cans.

5. Extension of Services to Strata Title Developments

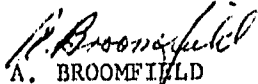
On November 3, 1975, Council adopted recommendations pertaining to the extension of refuse collection services to strata title developments on an interim basis (to be effective from October 28, 1975 to January 31, 1976). Letters of notification were subsequently hand delivered to all affected Strata Title Councils. Implementation of the recommendations is proceeding on schedule and in a manner that suggests acceptance by the parties involved.


It is anticipated that the next status report will be available for Council's consideration at the meeting of January 26, 1976.


The committee's next major consideration will be on ways in which the refuse collection system can be made less costly and more efficient. The committee will then be in a position to provide Council with estimated costs that are based on improved services, i.e., direct costs calculated on an improved system that provides optimum service to the public (as opposed to existing direct costs that are dealt with in other sections of this report).


This is for the information of Council.

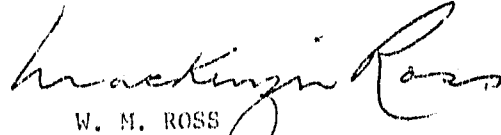
  
M. J. SHELLEY

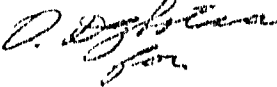
  
A. BROOMFIELD

  
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