

1903-1965

While minutes for the License, Police and Relief Committee start in March 1903, it is likely that the Committee was established prior to the March 10, 1903 fire at Fort William City Hall.

Early minutes reflect the Committee's involvement with the administration of Police matters; they include discussions on staffing issues and reports from the Chief of Police which provide the number of cases tried and/or the amount collected in payment of fines. In an estimate of costs for the year 1904, the majority of Committee funds were spent on Police Services, the two other significant categories of expenditure being designated for relief and the pound.

By-law 709 (1909), being a By-law to establish rules of Order and Procedure of the Municipal Council of the City of Fort William, gave the duties for various Municipal Committees. Under this by-law, the Committee officially became known as the License and Relief Committee - Its duties were as follows:

To oversee all aspects relating to issuing municipal licenses, provide financial assistance for the poor and infirm, to manage and report on all matters relating to markets, food safety/weights and measures inspections, to enforce the pound by-law, and to regulate fees in these areas as required.

As a result, subsequent minutes reflect an increased discussion of relief and licensing issues. Consideration and enforcement of licensing by-laws was discussed more frequently and the committee received monthly reports from the Relief Officer outlining efforts at the Relief Department. Reports of the Relief Officer are summarized in the minutes and generally provide details on the number of people on assistance and the total cost of assistance. The Committee also considered written and verbal requests of those on relief.

The Committee's control over licensing issues included the appointment of Poundkeepers, the receipt of regular updates from the Weights and Measures Inspector as well as the enforcement and establishment of relevant by laws. Licensing by-laws covered diverse issues from the regulation of peddlers, dogs, shop hours and public halls, to the operation of automobile lots, motor vehicle driver instruction schools and taxis in later years.

In 1944 under By-law 3885 the Committee name changed to the License and Welfare Committee. No alterations were given in terms of the function of the Committee. In fact, relief/welfare issues continued to be addressed even after the Public Welfare Board was established in 1935. (Series 73). It is difficult to determine what relationship existed between the License and Welfare Committee and the Public Welfare Board though it appears that similar functions were addressed by both groups, including, but not limited to the work of the

Traveler's Aid Matron and the Relief Officer.

In his 1952 inaugural address to Council (Series 1) Mayor Hubert Badanai wished to reduce potential duplication of service by removing welfare as a responsibility of the License and Welfare Committee and retaining the current Welfare Board. As a result, the License and Welfare Committee was renamed the License, Traffic and Safety Committee. Reports from the Chief constable served to inform members about licensing and enforcement issues and parking issues were addressed in reports from the Meter Inspector. When the Committee became responsible for the supervision of the Building department in April of 1952, monthly reports were obtained from Building Inspector, as well.

In his inaugural address of 1958, Mayor Badanai suggested an effort be made to reduce the number of standing committees of Council. The procedural by-law was amended to disband the License Traffic and Safety and other Committees for the year. The responsibility for Traffic Control was delegated to the Police Department. Later, Council re-established the Committee in its inaugural meeting of 1962 and by 1964, the Committee assumed responsibility for the Fire Department. The Committee existed under the title Fire, License, Traffic and Safety Committee and while some form of this Committee appears to have been in existence prior to Amalgamation, minutes conclude in June of 1964.

This series consist of Indexes available for the License, Traffic and Safety Committee from 1962 to 1964.

Previously known as the License and Relief Committee, the License and Welfare Committee, the License, Traffic and Safety Committee, and the Fire, License, Traffic and Safety Committee

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Further accruals are not anticipated.