

1903-1965

32 cm. of textual records (7 vol.) (2 indices)

Although a firm date for its' establishment can not be determined, references in Council Meeting minutes indicate that a need for a Building Committee arose out of the construction of a new City Hall and Fire Hall in 1903. At a special meeting of Council on April 17th, 1903, a Building Committee was empowered to procure plans and obtain costs for property and construction of the new City Hall. On May 19, Council appointments were made to the Building Committee whose mandate was to call for tenders and obtain the contract for building the foundation of the new City Hall.

Early on, the Committee took on additional responsibilities such as the responsibility for cemeteries and parks. Responsibility for cemetery maintenance was intermittent as it alternated between the Parks Board established in 1910 and the Property Committee. In addition, early budget figures indicate a responsibility for securing insurance coverage for the City Hall property, caretaking at City Hall and covering building expenses related to fuel, water, and lights. It appears that the Committee was responsible for all areas of building maintenance, improvements and furnishings, as well as arrangements relating to the public use of the City Hall Auditorium.

Renamed the Property Committee in 1907, additional facilities were taken under their control. Meeting minutes refer to building improvements and furnishings for the Police Station and Court House and indicate a supervisory relationship to the City Engineer, the Market Clerk, and the City Swimming Pool and Band Committee.

Passed in 1909, By-law 709 established the rules of procedure for Council and formally outlined the duties of its' standing committees. Under this By-law, it was clear that the Property Committee would continue to control all public buildings, receive tenders for building fuel supply, regulate salaries of caretakers and report to Council on site selection for the construction of new municipal buildings. While this By-law re-iterates a responsibility for various aspects of cemetery operations, these duties were intermittent, as they were occasionally the responsibility of the Parks Board, established in 1910.

According to cost estimates, properties under the control of the Committee in 1934 included City Hall, the Court House, Market, swimming pools, playgrounds, band stand, cemetery, Police Stations on McTavish and Brown Streets, and a house on Marks Street. As new municipal facilities were constructed, the Committee's work increased. In 1945, a resolution of Council turned over the responsibility of the Municipal Rink Building Committee and related matters to the Property Committee. Part of this responsibility involved the selection of properties available for a public by-law on establishing a location for a community centre in

1945. In addition, the Property Committee assumed responsibility for the Fort William Public Health Centre Building in 1956.

Disbanded by Council in 1958, the Committee's responsibilities were turned over to the Development and Industrial Committee and the Board of Works. The Property Committee was resurrected in 1962 when Council adopted the request of Mayor Reed to reconsider committee structures. Mayor Reed requested the Property Committee be established to deal with the sale of city lands, the construction of new buildings and all matters relating to real estate. The Development and Industrial Committee then switched focus under the name Industrial Promotion Committee. Minutes are unavailable after December 1966.

This Series consists of meeting minutes. Some type written budget material is included. Minutes are unavailable after December 1966. Two indices are available for the period 1962 to 1967.

Previously known as the Fort William Building Committee.

Includes meeting minutes for the Fort William Swimming Pool and Band Committee dated March 31, 1922 and June 16, 1922.

Minutes covering building matters are contained in Series 8 Fort William Industrial and Development Committee from 1958 to 1961

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No further accruals are expected.