

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

Alderman Anderson in the Chair.

On Wednesday, July 20th 1932, your Committee consisting of Mayor Bridgman, Aldermen Anderson, Huggett and Brown, met with Mrs. Howard and Messrs. Irwin and Mitchell, from the North Shore Real Estate Association, with reference to the City undertaking to pay taxes and water rates in cases where the landlord is not in receipt of rent.

The Associations' views briefly stated represent that owners of houses dependent on rental income to finance payment of taxes, and water rates, are in many instances unable to do so during the prevailing depression because large numbers of their tenants are in receipt of Unemployment Relief and cannot possibly pay rent.

The Association is further of the opinion that the provision of shelter to the destitute is a duty imposed by law upon the Municipality.

The Association proposes: -

1. That the City Relief Officer be empowered and authorized by the City Council to pay up to say, \$10.00 per month Relief Allowance (for rent) to such families, as, on investigation, he deems fairly entitled thereto, with provision that the cheques or vouchers thus issued shall in all instances be applied towards payment of Taxes and water rates on the respective house properties thus occupied.
2. That the Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada be petitioned to grant consent to this proposed measure of Relief in so far as the 1932 Bylaw for the hypothecation of taxes is concerned.

The Committees' viewpoint was that while they are fully in sympathy with the most reasonable treatment of the Unemployed they must emphasize the fact that the Municipality's budget for Direct Relief was being exceeded which coupled with the present high Tax rate and the low percentage of collections and the added fact that the usual credits were not being extended to the Municipality by the Bank, placed the Council in a position that the matter had largely resolved itself into a question of finding the necessary funds to carry on with relief as at present directed.

The Committee also expressed its disapproval of the system of Direct Relief as against Construction work being done and paid for in cash.

Moved by Mayor Bridgman seconded by Alderman Huggett and resolved that an interview be arranged with the Bank to find out if a proportion of the taxes hypothecated can be diverted as an extraordinary credit to be used in payment of rent, clothing, etc., to the registered Unemployed, and whatever data is available be prepared and submitted to the Bank at the time of the interview.

Moved by Alderman Huggett seconded by Alderman Brown and resolved that a Sub-Committee, consisting of Mayor Bridgman, and Alderman Anderson, Chairman of the Finance Committee be and is hereby appointed to carry out the purposes of the resolution and bring in a recommendation at the next regular meeting of the Council.

Moved by Alderman Anderson seconded by Mayor Bridgman and resolved that due to the error made by the Assessor in entering the Assessment value of the East ½ of Lot 17, Block 114, D.L. 274 at \$900.00 instead of \$600.00 as was intended which resulted in an increase of taxes of \$18.00 to the Owner, that the sum be charged to the personal account of the Assessor and paid for in amounts of not less than \$6.00 monthly.

Recommend that the Chairman of the Finance Committee, together with the Treasurer and Assessor, examine the books and further investigate liability in the question of the causes that led to the recent adjustment of \$17.99 on the 1931 taxes on Lots A & B, Block 60, D.L. 549 (North Vancouver General Hospital).

Whereupon the meeting adjourned.