

Subject: FW: Notice of Motion

Date: Fri, 5 Apr 2002 09:42:57 -0800

From: Ernie Crist <CristE@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> -----Original Message-----

> *From:* Ernie Crist

> *Sent:* Friday, April 05, 2002 9:42 AM

> *To:* Nathalie Valdes

> *Subject:* Notice of Motion

>

> *Notice of Motion: Councillor Crist*

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> *That the Municipal Manger provide a detailed report surrounding the
> circumstances regarding the recent water main rupture and the resulting
> property damage at 2422 Hoskins Rd. and further that*

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> *this include recommendations as to what steps will be taken so that in
> future no jurisdictional factor, as reported in the press, stands in the
> way of responding to such events in the most efficient and speedy manner,
> and further*

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> *that the report include an explanation as to why the water main
> infrastructure renewal program in place for the last 15 years including
> the building up the appropriate Reserve Funds to accomplish this, has
> been abandoned as appears to be the case and that the report also include
> a detailed account detailing for what purposes the earmarked reserve
> funds set aside for that purpose have been used, and further that*

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> *the report include a proposed program outlining the steps needed to
> replace the aging water main and drinking water delivery infrastructure
> on a fast track basis and that this include the necessary financial
> implications and sources of funding to finance such a program.*

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> *Rationale:*


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> *According to recent press reports rupture of a water main resulted in
> major damage to a residential property located at 2422 Hoskins Road.
> According to eyewitness reports the damage was accentuated by what
> appeared to be a jurisdictional matter which prevented District Fire
> Fighters, who appeared on the scene first, from shutting off the water
> thus resulting in an undue delay. This has been corroborated by several
> eyewitnesses.*

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> *The rupture of water mains in the District occur at an increasing rate.
> This is not surprising since the infrastructure built in the fifties has a
> life expectancy of approximately 50 years, more or less, thus needing
> replacement. Infrastructure renewal is especially important since 15 % of
> all water mains still in existence carry a potential health risk while
> 40% of all the water mains in existence are iron which must be replaced*

- > as quickly as possible to prevent ruptures and/or result in the loss of
- > water through leakage.
- >
- > The need for a costly infrastructure renewal program beginning in the mid
- > to late nineties was recognized by a previous District engineer, John
- > Bremner, 15 years ago and resulted in a reserve fund program to finance
- > such a renewal program. It appears, however, that these funds instead of
- > being spent on the intended infrastructure renewal program have, at least
- > in part, been siphoned off and used for other purposes.
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- > Even during the 2001 budget deliberations Council was assured by the
- > District Manger that the reserve funds could be safely accessed since they
- > were in excess of what was required. Concerns expressed by Councillor
- > Crist were dismissed. In some instances the Mayor would not even allow
- > Councillor Crist familiar with the background, to explain motions to
- > that effect. The result is that instead of carrying out an accelerated
- > program of at least \$ 10 million annually the District now intends to
- > spend a mere \$ 2,5 million on such a program annually. At this rate it
- > would take 40 years to renew the infrastructure estimated to cost around
- > \$ 100 million in today's dollars.
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- > It is clear the that whole issue must be addressed in a more than
- > "business as usual" manner since we are talking of major risks not only
- > to property but also to human health and possibly life itself.
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