

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2013 AT 9.45 AM

PRESENT:

Claire Barlow (Mayor)
Crs Peter Maxwell
Annette Money
Graeme Page
Graham Smith
Evan Williams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Barnett (Chief Executive Officer)
Paul Morris (Manager – Finance and Administration)
Bernie Haar (Asset Manager)
Nathan Hole (Manager Planning and Regulations)
Garth Nixon (Community Facilities Manager)
Keri-Ann Little (Committee Clerk)

I OPENING:

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II APOLOGY:

Resolved that an apology be received from Councillor John Bishop

Graham Smith/Evan Williams

III ANNUAL PLAN 2013/2014 SUBMISSIONS:

The Mayor welcomed the Councillors to the meeting to consider the submissions which had been received on the draft Annual Plan 2013/2014. She reminded all Councillors that while the submissions were being heard this was not the time for debate and that only questions of clarification could be asked.

Resolved that the late submission numbered 21 be accepted.

Annette Money/ Graham Smith

The Council then heard from submitters who had expressed the wish to speak to their submissions

1. R HANDS – SOUTH CANTERBURY RURAL FIRE:

Submission 2

The Mayor welcomed Rob Hands, South Canterbury Principal Rural Fire Officer and invited Mr Hands to speak to his submission.

Mr Hands said he would like to point out that he has always had a good open discussion about Rural Fire. The Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer needs the four wheel drive capability. Last year there was discussion about this item and after that the Council decided that the vehicle would be an advantage to the fleet. Purchasing the ex-South Canterbury vehicle was reflected in the 10 year plan for the Council.

The Four Wheel drive would allow The Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer (PRO) to respond and assist with Rural Fires. The Mackenzie zone is one of the largest, with remote areas and very little roading within that area, so again hence the need for a 4WD. Rural Fire especially in Mackenzie is light in resources with man power and vehicles. In the past we have relied on DOC for access and support but DOC are currently going through a review and there will be least support in the future. A vehicle needs to be available and needs radios and resources for onsite management available at all times. I am concerned about the use of a private vehicle. Health and safety identify that there could be some issues there in the future for the health and safety of PRO. Duty of care under the Health and Safety ACT.

Mr Hands recommended the Council reconsider their decision and purchase the second hand vehicle and that purchase approved for the 2013/2014 year.

MR Hands thanked the Council and said he looks forward to a positive outcome.

Questions:

Cr Smith – we have for a number of years not had a 4WD and hasn't been missed, there are 4WD's here at the Council they just aren't sitting waiting for use.

Mr Hands said there have been times when we have been limited, only being able to use Mr Gardner's (current PRO) 2WD.

Cr Smith asked will the vehicle be kitted out or will there be funding for this.

Mr Hands replied yes there is funding for that.

Cr Smith – we had an extremely difficult budget in budgeting, had to make priorities and cuts and we were anxious to proceed with the purchase of tankers and felt that the new vehicle could wait.

Mr Hands replied by saying that he took our word last year that it would be put off last year and purchased this year and this year they can purchase his ex- vehicle as Mr Hands will be issued with a new vehicle for 3 years then when that 3 years is up his vehicle will be purchased by Timaru District Council.

Cr Page said that Mr Gardner comes in his own private vehicle and it is ready right away and available in weekends, what use would this vehicle be what mileage would this vehicle have.

Mr Hands said there are PRO's in SC and not always would Mr Hands be the first to respond. The vehicle would be placed with Mr Gardner and that would also be able to compliment Civil Defence requirements as well and mileage would be paid from Kimbel (Mr Gardner's home) to Fairlie (Mr Gardner's office at Council) and the rest would be recovered.

Cr Page asked Mr Hands a proposed tanker for Albury is being replaced at 22 years of age but policy is 25 years, as we purchase second hand we have to replace quickly would purchasing new be better than second hand.

Mr Hands replied possibly and that he has done some work on the options with second-hand to new. It costs \$150-160,000 for a new and \$95,000 over 15 years for second-hand. There are some benefits but can you afford the capital initially. He is being conservative with second-hand availability there are benefits depending on the type and make of the vehicle.

Cr Maxwell asked Mr Hands at what cost for his vehicle.

Mr Hands replied \$20,000 with only 152,000kms.

The Mayor thanked Mr Hands for his submission and taking the time to attend the Submission hearing to speak to his submission.

2. SOUTH CANTERBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

Submission 13

Welcome Wendy Smith, Chief Executive Officer. Ms Smith read her submission *Appendix A*.

Questions:

Cr Maxwell asked Ms Smith is there is a push for merging

Ms Smith replied there is a central push for merging very close relationships with other institutions.

Cr Smith stated what a great job the Development Board has done in this district roughly what would you see our commitment in developing this area.

The CEO said he has that information and a proposal and that will be presented to Council and Christchurch Canterbury Tourism (CCT) to consider and needs to come as a package.

Ms Smith also answered Cr Smith's question saying that they would provide a size of service that is affordable and that can service your area. Work collaboratively with Christchurch Canterbury Tourism.

The Mayor thanked Ms Smith for keeping the Council up to speed and thanked Ms Smith for her submission and support for local Mackenzie businesses.

3. FEDERATED FARMERS – MACKENZIE BRANCH:

Submissions 17

The Mayor welcomed John Murray to the meeting and thanked him for his submission. Mr Murray was invited to speak to the Council.

Mr Murray said his submission was pretty self-explanatory and believes the Rural sector pays more than its fair share of rates. Mr Murray asked Council to look at funding other things and maintain an irrigation system and challenge the Council to fund as much money to the rural sector as you do to support and maintain the cycle way.

Mr Murray continued to speak to his submission stating that he is concerned that the rural sector does clarify roading expenditure. Mr Murray referred to the Canal Road saying that it is a private road but does have safety concerns and is up to Genesis if the road reopens, Council may face pressure to take over the road and Mr Murray is concerned it will cost the ratepayer to maintain.

The Mayor thanked Mr Murray for highlighting the Canal Road and said that in relation to that subject point of Mr Murray's submission The Mayor continued on to say that the recent article in The Timaru Herald regarding Council and The Canal Road was simply whipped up by the media and The Mayor said she has no intention of taking it on and is in the same mind with Mr Murray and invited questions of clarification only.

Questions:

Cr Maxwell asked Mr Murray to elaborate regarding his funding statement, if Council would put in the same amount of money into irrigation as A2O. Mr Murray replied by saying it was a throw away comment and is concerned it has been very one sided Tourism and nothing else and continued on to say most of the local water schemes are paid for by the people who use the them and said Council could look at the enhancement of the environment, remove wilding trees not just irrigation.

Cr Smith agrees points of natural significance are a concern and is not sure how we will get around it and doesn't want to be in and out of Court to decide what is and what isn't but we do have to accept that there are going to be areas of natural significance and we will have to recognise this.

Mr Murray it is a big area of implications as land owner and said that it will be an expense for the Council through the Resource Management Act (RMA).

The Mayor asked Mr Murray if he has looked at the documents and the reasons why Council want to work in with economic development and hopefully the planning exercise going forward you will have a lot of dialogue going forward.

Mr Murray replied by saying he would not like to see higher standards.

Cr Smith informed Mr Murray that another staff member – Planner had been employed to carry out this work.

Cr Page said Solid Waste is funded 40% general rate.

Mr Morris agreed with Cr Page stating Recovery Parks are general rate; wheelie bin service users pay for their own but has changed as wheelie bin charges for users of the service has gone up.

The Mayor thanked Mr Murray for his time and speaking to his submission.

4. FEDERATED FARMERS – FAIRLIE BRANCH:

Submission 18

The Mayor welcomed Greg Anderson, Mark Davis, Neil Campbell and Stan Taylor from the Fairlie Branch of the Federated Farmers.

Mr Anderson read their submission.

Mr Anderson asked who is funding the Alps 2 Ocean (A2O). Mr Morris said that part of the track will be funded by roading and the toilets are funded by the general rate.

Mr Anderson spoke to the administration part of their submission stating that staff time should be allocated to the area it's used.

Mr Anderson said that the Feds (Federated Farmers) note that while the targeted rate has declined \$235,000, however the general rate has risen by \$358,000 – comparing the LTP with the Annual Plan.

Mr Anderson said the Feds are concerned about amalgamation of roading rural share being removed from reserves, rural rate payers missing out again.

Mr Anderson now passed over to Neil Campbell for a general summary. Mr Campbell said the Mackenzie District has one of the smallest populations and every decision you make as a Council is crucial as any burden is shared by a small number.

Mr Campbell said the Feds have a real concern around expenditure up by staff 12% and consultancy is up 45% on the LTP and said wages up higher than the New Zealand average. Mr Campbell said operation, maintenance and roading are barely static.

Mr Campbell said he is also the Chair of the Allandale Rural Water Supply Committee and said back to the Mayor of the day they challenged him about there not being enough of administration back to your scheme don't want to subsidy from someone who doesn't use it. The next 12 months their time on the scheme and the next year we would look at those costs and pick them up themselves or from Council and the suggestions supported by The Mayor of the day and was opposed by the CEO of the

day. No accurate record of where costs are and suggests this Council needs to count for staff time and staff sheeted and then back to that cost code.

Property sales 2.46million as opposed to 1.19 in the long term plan. Investment down and net assets are down these are concerning trends they see this District has survived being debt free and investment income and other reserve assets these apparent decline of these reserves threatens the survival of this District.

Questions:

Cr Smith asked Mr Campbell to clarify with regards to his comments of allocations into one group and that Council don't know where we are going. Cr Smith said he would like to say that he thinks the financial system now is a lot more robust than the old system which wasn't as strong, financial reporting is up to date. Cr Smith asked Mr Campbell does he feel that our rates are too high.

Cr Smith continued to say that one of our problems is we have relied on a lot of investment income and as it comes off 7 or 8% we are having difficulty finding somewhere to put The Council's money with a decent return and that the property money goes into the real estate reserve to offset your rates. And then to invest at 4% has had drastic implications on our budget. Cr Smith concluded by saying that if you owned a rural property with a value of 5 million in the Waitiaki District your rates would be \$9,000 thousand, in Mackenzie it would be \$5,000.

Stan Taylor from the Federated Farmers now spoke to their submission on Tourism. Mr Taylor thanked The Mayor. Mr Taylor said he was a part of the Marketing and Economic Development Working Party and said to move forward we all agree that a Committee of Council would be the best structure to take Tourism forward. Working with strategic partners Wendy, CCT they are more proactive with more Mackenzie on the ground promotion. Funding was disappointing and Mr Taylor questioned if there was a quorum at the meeting and that there weren't any budgets or plans put forward with the recommendation of \$60 per rateable property, Mr Taylor didn't think that was well thought out. Mr Taylor felt that the Council increase of \$25 to \$35 felt tough more household than rateable property affects Farmers with multiple properties. Mr Taylor said he will strongly push for a more development aspect of the working party with movement away from Tourism and more economic projects.

Questions:

The Mayor asked Mr Morris for clarification asking can Council only do rateable properties. Mr Morris replied saying Council can rate per rating unit.

Cr Maxwell said a member of the Marketing and Economic Development Working Party he would like to clarify that there was a number of people away at the meeting but there was a quorum. \$60 per property a figure Committee at the time agreed on with the \$30 that was being already collected and will still be used and the extra \$30 would be able to go more towards marketing. We still have to come to tasks with overhauling other parts and as part of the Long term process.

V ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56

V ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was reconvened at 11:27am

CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL SUBMISSIONS:

The Elected Members reviewed each submission briefly.

1. Jeremy Shearman:

We agree Cycleway A2O to incorporate Tekapo. Suggest going to joint Committee. Note accept that the form needs re-working.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Graham Smith/ Annette Money

2. Rob Hands - SC Rural Fire:

Cr Page said our decision not to fund still stands. Currently there are 2 4WD at the Council that could be available for a call out.

Cr Smith if Ray Gardner, PRO to buy his own vehicle would be a better outcome for Council.

Cr Williams asked if he buys a vehicle how many miles his he likely to cover and that maybe there is no need for it.

Mr Hole – Manager Planning and Regulations said he (Mr Gardner) will get mileage over and above call outs.

Mr Morris – Manager Finance and Administration said the vehicle would be a capital spend and funded depreciation would pay for the purchase. On-going running costs and \$4000 funded depreciation a year for 5 years.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted and we are reconsidering.

Claire Barlow/ Graham Smith

3. Bill Bayfield – ECAN:

Rejected but seek further information.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be rejected.

Graham Smith/Evan Williams

4. **Trees for Bees NZ:**

Submission noted.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted

Graham Page/ Peter Maxwell

5. **Max Luisetti:**

We received and don't accept.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be declined.

Graham Smith/ Peter Maxwell

6. **Stephen Golding:**

Received submission and note comments, and respond that is still an option.

Resolved

1. That the submission be accepted.

Annette Money/ Peter Maxwell

7. **Raymond Tansely:**

Comments noted as the plan progresses.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted

Peter Maxwell/ Claire Barlow

8. **Joan and Lex Stanley:**

Accept and refer to NZTA

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Annette Money/ Graham Smith

9. **Matt Hurst:**

Note comments and respond accordingly.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Annette Money/ Graham Smith

10. **Alister Brensell:**

Mr Hole will consider that as part of the District Plan.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Annette Money/ Peter Maxwell

11. **Don and Catherine Young:**

Accept submission and will take their concerns into consideration in future development going forward.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Peter Maxwell/ Graeme Page

12. **Judith Holland:**

Noted and we are looking at the best possible cleanest source we can find.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Annette Money/ Graham Smith

13. **Wendy Smith – South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce:**

Responding that noted all issues. Highlight already shared services.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Claire Barlow/ Graeme Page

14. **Ian Satterwaite:**

We will take note of his comments and respond accordingly.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Peter Maxwell/ Annette Money

15. **Elizabeth Brien:**

Respond and organise a site meeting with CEO, Cr Page and The Mayor.

Resolved:

1. That the submission be accepted.

Graeme Page/ Evan Williams

16. **Andrew Hocken:**

Resolved:

1. Accept submission A2O only funding for 3 years and then will become self-sufficient.
2. Plan Change 13 accept submission and supply the figure of what it has cost – Mr Hole.
3. We have a stricter criteria public policy and point out we have not lost any money – Mr Morris.
4. Twizel Water Supply - it's not a true gravity system. On-going investigations for sources and cost benefit analyse. Accept submission and support the investigations for Twizel Supply.
5. Tourism rate noted.

Annette Money/ Graham Smith

17. **Federated Farmers – Mackenzie Branch:**

Resolved:

Submission accepted in part.

1. Accept submission and need to clarify some of the points highlighted and respond to their points. Receive submission the rating system aims to achieve the balance between the user pays principle and land tax – The CEO.
2. Accept Solid Waste and point out figures. Progressing down that path.
3. Economic Development – noted, provide explanation.
4. Natural Significance – rejected.
5. SONS note concerns, criteria is not set by Council but in terms of that process and identifying those areas and put in District Plan that Council will be fully engaged.
6. Resource Management – reject with an explanation.

Graeme Page/ Graham Smith

18. **Federated Farmers – Fairlie Branch:**

Resolved:

1. That the comments are noted and will respond.

Annette Money/ Claire Barlow

19. **Community Public Health:**

Resolved:

1. That the submission is accepted with thanks.

Annette Money/ Evan Williams

20. **Marion Seymour:**

Resolved:

1. That the submission is accepted in part.

Annette Money/ Graeme Page

21. **J Legelli:**

Resolved:

1. That the Roding Uniform Annual Charge submission is rejected.
2. That the Tourism UAGC comments noted.

Annette Money/ Graham Smith

Resolved: that the Annual Report 2013/2014 be adopted with no changes.

Claire Barlow/ Graham Smith

THE WORLD WAR ONE YOUNG SOLDIER STATUE:

Councillor Page spoke to the Council with the background of the request.

Resolved: that the Council grants authority for the Statue of the World War One Young Soldier to be placed and remain on Council owned property at the Fairlie Village Green. Council undertakes to provide for the on-going maintenance of the statue and gardens in perpetuity.

Annette Money/ Evan Williams

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12:58 PM**

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____