

MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE MACKENZIE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FAIRLIE, ON TUESDAY APRIL 29, 2014, AT 9.18am

PRESENT:

Claire Barlow (Mayor)
Cr Murray Cox
Cr Noel Jackson
Cr Evan Williams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Wayne Barnett (Chief Executive Officer)
Paul Morris (Manager Finance and Administration)
Arlene Goss (Committee Clerk)

OPENING:

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for lateness.

APOLOGIES:

An apology was received from Cr Russell Armstrong, and apologies for lateness from Crs James Leslie and Graham Smith.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

ADOPTION OF DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2014/15:

Finance and Administration Manager Paul Morris said this is the last annual plan under the old legislation, with new regulations coming into effect on May 1.

Cr James Leslie joined the meeting at 9.26am

The following corrections to the draft were noted:

On page 17 of the plan there is a mistake that says council is preparing to hold elections in 2013, which has been removed. A reference to back office staff has been changed to administration staff. Rating definitions on page 98 of the agenda - a change has been made to add extra words related to the capital value of the land. Further changes have been made to make headings more understandable.

Under Uniform Annual Charge it now reads "all rateable land under section 15". On page 90 under Twizel Works and Services Rate "20% fixed charges

and 90% rate” has been changed to 17.42% and 82.58%. Under Tekapo Works and Services rate change has been made to Category Tekapo A and all other properties. Other minor changes have been made on pages 92, 93, 98 (Accommodation and Commercial Businesses), 99. Page 102-102 changes have been made to add the words “fixed charge” to several items.

Cr Graham Smith joined the meeting at 9.37am.

Paul Morris went through the contents of the Annual Plan Summary. The pie graphs were favourably received. The rating comparison chart was discussed and councillors asked for the explanation to be put at the top of the page to draw attention to it. It was agreed to do this.

The Mayor said she would go through the report page by page and asked Paul Morris to take notes. She started with the summary.

The Mayor would like the fonts changed and there are some typos in the summary. Paul Morris asked for typing or grammatical errors to be noted and provided to him on printed versions so they can be corrected.

Cr Smith would like the re-valuation of assets to be included in the summary, as this has affected the rates. This will be added to the Mayor and Chief Executive’s summary.

Page 2, first paragraph is inflammatory regarding Federated Farmers. Would like reference to Fed Farmers removed. Cr Cox would like “daunting” replaced with “challenging” in reference to the district plan.

Paul Morris referred the councillors to page 102 regarding the Burkes Pass sewer. Depreciation has added \$10,000 to the rates. There are 17 ratepayers in Burkes Pass and this has a significant impact. He suggested letting the plan go out as it is and then doing a submission to the plan to work out how to change this going forward. Current plan has a rates impact of 35% per property in Burkes Pass. Would be bad for us to change policy without a discussion. Need to get it out there and think about how we can solve it. Paul Morris will write a submission on this aspect of the draft plan.

Would like to highlight in the summary that the additional building officer is fully funded from building activity, and not funded from rates.

Cr Smith questioned the need for the low value, high value comparison and tabled a sample summary from the Timaru District Council. Cr Leslie says the townships are paying similar rates even though Twizel’s percentage rise is higher than the others.

On page 13-14, last sentence refers to safe and secure water supply, the Mayor asked to add the words “now and into the future”.

Resolved that council adopts the 2014/15 Summary of the Draft Annual Plan for release for public consultation, subject to the changes noted.

Graham Smith/Evan Williams

Public submissions will be forwarded to councillors as they arrive. The Mayor requested a management summary of submissions be provided before the hearing. Paul Morris is expecting approx. 30 submissions. A public meeting is planned for Twizel to answer ratepayer’s questions on the new water scheme.

Any changes made to the summary will be reflected in the Draft Annual Plan.

They Mayor continued to go through the document page by page. On page 23 of the agenda some changes were made to the wording. Examples of changes made since the last Annual Plan to communicate better with the public need to be added.

In the financial summary, thousands need to be highlighted to show people that the figures have three zeros after them.

Under water supplies we need to add a reference to a fit and healthy community. Same for sewerage.

Page 44, remove mention of solar system project and upgrade to tennis courts as these are old projects. First few sentences under Lake Tekapo to be removed, and start toilets section at “A provisional amount...”.

Page 47, remove “given the state of the economy” comment.

Page 50, MDTT has not yet been wound up. Paul Morris explained that this has been delayed by tax issues.

Page 68 of annual plan, paragraph under employee entitlements. Cr Leslie asked if we are expecting more sickness than planned. Paul Morris explained this was due to accounting standards used in accounting for sick leave liability.

A question was asked on the setting of the official cash rate.

Resolved that council adopts the 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan for release for public consultation with the changes noted, and typographical errors to be corrected.

Graham Smith/Evan Williams

THE MAYOR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.27am

MAYOR: _____

DATE: _____