



MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2008, AT 4:05 pm

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Crs Bolger, Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Harvey, Heller, Highsted, McLennan and Sharp.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and seven members of the public in the Gallery.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Highsted, **THAT** the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Wednesday 11 June 2008, as presented, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true and complete record.

The Council *noted* His Worship had departed the meeting at 4:30 pm.

2. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO THE DRAFT 2008/09 ANNUAL PLAN (46.23.17)

His Worship advised it was his intention to work through submissions individually and consider any issues that arose at the time. A memo had been circulated regarding a missed submission from the Gore Amateur Radio Club and a late submission from Roading New Zealand and he asked the Council to consider them at the end of the meeting.

The Chief Executive said there had been two issues that had unlocked potential savings of \$42,000 since the hearing the previous week. The first was the resignation of Mr and Mrs

Drummond as caretakers of the James Cumming Wing and the second issue related to manning for the new public toilets.

Submission No 1 – WasteNet Southland

The Council perused the submission.

Submission No 2 – Physicians and Scientists for Responsible Genetics (PSRG)

In response to Cr Gardyne, His Worship advised all submitters would be written to and thanked for their submissions.

**Submission No 3 – Royal New Zealand Plunket Society (Inc),
Submission No 4 – Gore and Districts Budget Advisory Service,
Submission No 5 - Letters from Residents and
Submission No 21 – Energy Smart**

His Worship thought the four healthy homes submissions needed to be considered together. The submission from Energy Smart had requested support from the Council to the tune of \$25,000. He was in no doubt that there was a need for the project in the community. He added a flexible, informal approach would be used to debate issues for the meeting but he would invoke standing orders if necessary.

Cr Heller supported the healthy homes concept but objected to a contribution of \$25,000. He felt given the comments of Mr Boniface at the hearing, that the request to the Gore District Council was slightly high when calculated on a population basis. He had reworked the figures and felt \$15,000 was more in line.

Cr Sharp agreed and said he would support a contribution of \$15,000.

Cr Dixey was concerned about the change to the original concept, which had provided the Council with the ability to recover the funds, by way of a loan, but it was now being asked directly for funding. He would support an amount of \$15,000.

Cr Harvey said the funds needed to be tagged for use in the Gore District.

Cr Davis asked if the contribution would be paid annually over the five year term of the project.

His Worship replied it would be and he supported the consideration of \$15,000.

Cr Sharp said it would be a grant, not a loan, as the energy retailers would not entertain reimbursement of any potential power savings.

Cr Gardyne said when he had looked at the stakeholders, he felt Electricity Invercargill Ltd's contribution appeared to be less than its population base would suggest it should be.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gardyne, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Council approve a grant of \$15,000 per annum for the five year period of the regional healthy homes project for retro-fit insulations to homes within the Gore District boundary,

AND THAT the project be reviewed on 30 June 2010.

2008/54

His Worship was heartened the Council had decided to be a part of the project and it was good the southern Councils could work together to provide a service. It was a step in the right direction and he was confident the project would work well regardless of whether its contribution was the right amount.

Submission No 6 – Gore and Districts SPCA

His Worship noted the Council had given the organisation a grant of \$3,000 the previous year.

Cr Harvey felt funding for the SPCA would be an ongoing demand and thought the request should be declined.

Cr Dixon said the SPCA did a marvellous job considering its lack of funds and he was in favour of supporting a contribution but perhaps not as much as \$3,000.

Cr Bolger agreed with Cr Dixon and provided clarity on the reason behind giving a grant to the SPCA the previous year. There was real potential for health problems which could be spread by feral cats.

His Worship added there were over 1000 feral cats in the Gore District and the problem was only going to intensify.

Cr Dixey asked if the grant would only be used to euthanase or de-sex cats.

His Worship replied it was the biggest factor with the costs incurred.

Cr Harvey said the Council was getting more requests for money for “social type” projects and asked whether it should provide

money for people or cats. He understood Cr Bolger's concerns but noted there were many people in the District living on the breadline and at least the healthy homes project would help people.

Cr Grant agreed feral cats were a problem but the Council needed to draw a line somewhere.

His Worship supported the submission and asked what the Council's priorities were.

Cr Davis wondered if a rates remission could be a possibility instead of a grant.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the Council approve a grant of \$1,500 to the Gore and Districts SPCA.

2008/55

Submission No 7 – Allister and Ann Meikle

Cr Bolger agreed it was a laudable objective by Mr and Mrs Meikle to keep rate increases within the rate of inflation. However, the Council had projected in the LTCCP that its increase would be close to the rate of inflation over the ten year period. He added that to confine the rate increase in any one year hampered the Council's ability to carry out any capital work. While it was a good concept to consider, it was not practical from a financial point of view.

Cr Dixon said he was a great advocate of keeping the rates increase within inflation, but because of the large number of funding submissions, he could not see it happening.

Cr Gardyne supported the submission and encouraged Mr and Mrs Meikle to repeat it every year. He agreed the Council was endeavouring to keep equivalent the inflation rate over a long period of time and thought if capital projects were covered by loans, he could not see why the rates increase could not be limited to inflation. The Council needed to continually look at its level of service to decide whether it was appropriate for the time and it needed to show some economic restraint and leadership.

Cr Bolger said increased borrowing would be the result of keeping rate increases within inflation. It would be satisfactory, over the short term, but the burden of the increased level of borrowing would be difficult to keep up with.

Submission No 8 – Wyndham Angling Club

The Chief Executive said he had conferred with MWH who would be preparing a report into the feasibility of de-sludging and the associated costs which needed to be prepared by December 2009. MWH was quite confident it could be done in the first half of 2009 which would mean it would not be rated for in the 2008/09 year on the proviso, no consultation was necessary. He did not believe what had been included in the draft Annual Plan would materialise unless the Council was sidetracked with consultation.

Submission No 9 – Sander Zuiderduin and Submission No 11 – Southland District Council

His Worship noted recycling had been on the table for at least three years and the Council needed to make some decisions on where it wanted to head. He was aware the community wanted some type of kerbside recycling available, but the Council needed to decide how it wished to progress the issue, how fast and what the options were. The request from the Southland District Council to consider a provincial wide recycling initiative was a good idea and Southland local authorities were well renowned for working together. He noted the Council staff needed some direction.

Cr Davis said the biggest stumbling block had been the lack of motivation from the public. A definitive direction forward had not been forthcoming and people were concerned about the cost. She felt a regional approach as far as costs were concerned was a good solution and personally supported in principle what the Southland District Council was aiming to do, but the Council still needed a firmer picture of the costs involved.

His Worship referred to the presentation by WasteNet Southland at the June Operations Committee meeting. About 15 months ago, the Council had put three or four options out for public consultation which had met little response, but most were in favour of a three bin service. However, there had been four issues brought to his attention at the Expo. The issues were that current recycling initiatives in Gore needed to be taken into account, the number of bins out on the street at any one time and storage room, and the current refuse service providers to be dealt with in a fair manner.

Cr Bolger departed the meeting at 4:42 pm.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr McLennan, **THAT** the Council approve in principle a

provincial wide recycling service with the Southland District Council, subject to the further information and costs being provided for such a service.

2008/56

Cr Heller referred to the three drawer type bin used in Timaru for those with limited storage room.

Cr Harvey thought it would be good for the Council to be involved in a provincial scheme, rather than rushing into recycling on its own. He supported the motion.

Cr Bolger returned to the meeting.

Submission No 10 – Environment Southland and Submission No 15 – Kristen Price

Cr Dixey was in favour of a grant of \$5,000 for the Enviroschools programme but he hoped it was not an annual request.

His Worship replied it would be. There were currently three enviroschools in the Gore District that had been funded by the Southland District Council which was slightly embarrassing. Therefore, it would be an annual process in the short term.

Cr Dixey thought it should be part of the school syllabus and funded by the Government.

Cr Gardyne said Environment Southland did not help the Gore District Council with its other cost centre and he believed Environment Southland should continue to run the programme.

His Worship said it was an option for the Council to consider but personally he would be disappointed. The Council had a responsibility for environmental wellbeing under the Local Government Act. Enviroschools was one form of encouragement for the environment for the future citizens of the Gore District.

His Worship said the grant had already been included in the draft Annual Plan and the letter from Environment Southland was in support. If the Council chose to take it out, a motion would be required.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Enviroschools programme be reviewed on 30 June 2011 to ensure the grant was still required.

2008/57

Submission No 12 – Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce

His Worship hoped the Councillors had looked at the Gore website. He agreed it needed to be updated but questioned what level of involvement the Council should have.

Cr Heller did not support the Council being involved. He referred to other organisations erecting statues around the town which were subsequently left for Council to maintain. He felt the Chamber of Commerce should be in charge of keeping the website updated.

Crs Grant and Sharp supported Cr Heller's comments.

Cr Sharp moved THAT the Council decline the request from the Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce for ongoing maintenance of the website www.gorenz.com.

The motion was seconded by Cr Heller.

His Worship thought the Council needed to be mindful of the town image. The website provided access to information for people from outside the District. He would be disappointed if the Council opted out completely.

Cr Dixey said the submission suggested a sub-committee be formed and he asked what input the Council had already contributed.

The Chief Executive advised i-SITE staff and Gore Librarian, Mrs P J Perry had been extensively involved. It had taken approximately 18 months of voluntary development work. As Cr Heller had noted, the site was rapidly going out of date.

Cr Gardyne asked that the Council convey to the Chamber that there were many organisations in the community which were run on a voluntary basis. It had chosen the project and the District had been enhanced because of it. However, he was disturbed that it was the second request for funds that had not supplied an adequate set of accounts. He noted the businesses in the central business district had funded a proportion of promotion activities in the past. He felt it was appropriate that Chamber continue the maintenance of the website and he supported the motion.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2008/58

Submission No 13 – Gore Counselling Centre

Cr Harvey declared an interest and withdrew from the debate.

Cr Dixey declared an interest as the Council's representative but asked if he would be permitted to speak.

The Chief Executive said it would seem nonsensical for a Council representative not to be able to participate in the debate.

Cr Dixey confirmed the Southland District Council had given the Centre an annual grant of \$1,000.

His Worship provided background to the request. The Centre had recently purchased property which had subsequently made it liable for rates. He thought a rate rebate could be applicable given the voluntary nature of the organisation.

Cr Heller asked what the amount of rates rebate could be.

The General Manager, Corporate Services advised the current rates remission policy allowed for 50% of general rates. The Centre's rates had been estimated at \$3,800 and if the 50% remission was applied, the rates would reduce to \$2,500. However, it would mean a grant could not be given to the Centre.

Cr Heller said he would be happy with a rate rebate or use of the James Cumming Wing for seminars at no cost.

His Worship said Gore was fortunate to have such a service available.

Cr Davis was in favour of permitting use of the James Cumming Wing for conferences in conjunction with a rates rebate.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT the Council approve a grant of \$1,500 to the Gore Counselling Centre, subject to production of its annual financial accounts,

AND THAT rental of the James Cumming Wing rooms be provided free of charge for public seminars.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr Sharp was concerned about the comments made by Dr Wilson at the hearing. The income had doubled but the costs had quadrupled. A rates rebate would be only worth a few hundred dollars.

Cr Highsted clarified the rates rebate was restricted to that level because of Council policy.

His Worship replied it was.

Cr Highsted said the motion was appropriate on that basis, but he asked why the Centre had only requested \$1,500 as the rates were in fact \$3,800.

His Worship replied Dr Wilson had expected the rates to be \$1,500.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2008/59

Submission No 14 – Public Health South

The Parks and Recreation Manager noted other Councils had adopted smoke-free parks and reserves by putting up signs, but had chosen not to enforce it.

Cr Davis asked how much it would cost for signs to be erected.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised there were currently 66 reserves and 26 playgrounds with three or four egresses which required a number of signs. He could not estimate the cost.

Crs Dixon and Harvey agreed it should not be the Council's decision to make reserves smoke-free.

Cr Dixey asked if the footpath activity could be separated from roading in the Council's budget.

The Roading Manager said footpaths and roading were currently separated so it would not be difficult to change it.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the footpaths activity be shown separately from roading.

2008/60

His Worship said the smoke-free concept was laudable and it would happen in the future, but now was not the right time.

Cr Heller was concerned about who would police such a concept.

Submission No 16 – Southland Healthy Eating, Healthy Action (HEHA) Reference Group (SHEHARG)

Cr Harvey thought it was the responsibility of parents to ensure children were eating healthily.

His Worship noted the submission sought healthy food to be provided at Council facilities and asked if that would include the pool?

The Parks and Recreation Manager replied the idea had already been entertained to provide healthy options at the complex.

Cr Davis asked if the Southland HEHA Charter had been sighted.

Cr Harvey thought it would be similar to Hokonui Horizon's Charter and he could not see a problem with signing this one.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT the Council decline the offer to sign the Southland HEHA Charter.

His Worship mentioned there were extreme deficits in the Gore District with regard to parenting and he supported any organisation that could help to encourage a healthy balanced lifestyle.

Cr Davis noted both Hokonui Horizons and the Invercargill City Council had agreed to sign the Charter.

The motion was seconded by Cr Heller.

Cr Dixey said the submission requested a contribution of resources and funding.

His Worship advised the Southland HEHA Manager had stated at the hearing it was not requesting a grant.

Cr Harvey thought the Council should sign the Charter but it should not get involved with healthy eating initiatives.

The motion was put and it was tied. His Worship used his casting vote against the motion. The motion was lost.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the Council sign the Southland HEHA Charter, subject to His Worship and the Chief Executive being satisfied with its conditions.

2008/61

Submission No 17 – NZ Landcare Trust/Gore Forest Native Group

Cr McLennan moved THAT the Council decline the request for a \$5,000 grant and \$1,000 in-kind time from the NZ Landcare Trust.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis.

Cr Bolger agreed the request for \$5,000 should be declined, but believed a contribution of \$1,000 to control the noxious weeds at the former Gore landfill site was a good deal.

Cr Heller said the request was for in-kind time, not money.

His Worship asked for clarification of Cr McLennan's motion.

In response to His Worship, Cr McLennan said he had moved both requests be declined as the Council should already be controlling noxious weeds at the site.

His Worship said it was the Trust's intention to be involved in revegetating the whole area and it had requested the Council's help.

Cr Bolger moved as an amendment, THAT the Council decline the request for a grant of \$5,000 to the NZ Landcare Trust,

AND THAT the Council support a contribution of \$1,000 of in-kind time for the control of noxious weeds at the former Gore landfill site.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Dixey.

Cr Davis queried whether the weeds were not currently being controlled by Council staff and wondered if more resources were required.

The Parks and Recreation Manager agreed the Council would potentially deal with any noxious weeds in the area.

Cr Gardyne noted the project was contingent on a contribution from the Community Trust of Southland. He believed the submission should be declined in its entirety.

The amendment was put and it was lost.

Cr Davis asked if the reserves department could cultivate cuttings to assist the Group, rather than providing a donation of in-kind time.

Cr Dixey noted there had been two separate submissions, one for the NZ Landcare Trust's grant and the other for the Gore Forest Native Group's request for in-kind time. He thought environmental programmes in schools could be used to rebush the site.

His Worship noted the two submissions would be treated separately.

Cr McLennan agreed to withdraw his original motion so the two submissions could be treated separately.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the Council decline the request for a grant of \$5,000 to the NZ Landcare Trust.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2008/62

Cr Sharp thought the periodic detendees should provide in-kind time to the Group.

The Parks and Recreation Manager agreed the periodic detendees could be requested to help in an in-kind manner.

RESOLVED on the motion by Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the Council provide \$1,000 in-kind time to the Gore Native Forest Group for control of noxious weeds at the former Gore landfill site.

2008/63

Submission No 18 – Trish Roderique

The Roothing Manager agreed Smillie and Boag Roads had, on separate occasions, been found to be outside the tolerance of the Works contract. From his inspection earlier in the day, he had found Smillie Road in good condition, but Boag Road was subject to potholes. He added that both roads had been subject to increased traffic due to dairy conversions, which had put additional pressure on the roads and as such, they may possibly need to be changed to a different maintenance group.

Cr Dixon wondered if roads could be graded more often when new developments had resulted in a higher traffic load at the cost of the developers.

The Manager advised there was no provision for it, unless a consent was involved. He noted there had been no complaints received from Mrs Roderique during the year. The Roothing

Department relied on reports from the public to a certain extent to be made aware of any problems.

Cr Dixon felt provisions should be added to cover increased traffic loads.

The Manager said the Council was going to be taking action through the District Plan, but in this particular case, there had been no landuse or subdivision consent to apply to the situation.

Submission No 19 – Gore and Districts Youth Workers Network

Cr Dixey believed the Children's Day had not been held the previous year and the grant provided could be transferred to the current year.

His Worship said the grounds had been set up and it had been washed out on the day so he believed there would have been expenses incurred.

Cr Dixey suggested the Council should decline the request, if the grant had not been spent in the previous year for Children's Day.

Cr Heller noted the request had increased by 60%.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT the Council approve a grant of \$500 to the Gore and Districts Youth Workers Network for the 2008 Children's Day.

2008/64

Submission No 20 – Federated Farmers of New Zealand: Southland Province

The Chief Executive said the Council had less staff than in 2001 and the workload in local government had skyrocketed in intensity because of the Local Government and Building Acts. The expectations for the LTCCP and the Annual Plan had finally prompted the need for more staff. He added there had been concerns raised about stress and four former employees had chosen to lay complaints. Work levels were unsustainably high and the new positions would relieve some pressure. A Roding Supervisor would give the Roding Manager and Cadet a much needed hand. An Asset Planner was required to deal with ongoing asset management plan updates and would interface with operations and administration. Most other Councils had dedicated Asset Planning staff for each department. He was

advocating one person to provide assistance to the three Departments. He agreed the employment of a Community Development Officer was a political choice. Before the Council made a decision, he noted there had been a strong request from the community for the Council to have greater involvement in community development. At present, he and His Worship currently serviced most of the community development work.

The Roothing Manager added it would be difficult to fill the roading position as there was a shortage of engineers. He hoped a supervisor would be able to deal with issues that were currently performed out of house which would provide a better service.

His Worship said he was passionate about community development and hoped a position within the Council could connect with the many facets of community development to grapple with concerns raised from time to time. He believed all other Councils had a person in this type of role. At present, either he or the Chief Executive had dealt with it, which was not an ideal use of resources. He noted neighbouring Councils contracted the position to Venture Southland. He noted the many projects he had been involved with and believed there was a need for a Community Development Officer as there were challenges facing the community which would only grow with the economy tightening up.

Cr Harvey believed evidence would be required by the Auditors to identify what community development the Council had been involved with and a Community Development Officer was a necessity.

Cr Dixon had not realised an engineer was required for the roading position and suggested it could be a part time position.

The Roothing Manager said the role would include contract supervision together with engineering duties and it could possibly be a part time position.

Cr Dixon said it would save money and suggested the Community Development Officer could be deferred to the following year.

Cr Gardyne asked if the Roothing Manager would be relieved of the maintenance of asset management plans due to the employment of an Asset Planner.

The Roothing Manager replied he would still be involved in the maintenance of the asset plan. He noted there had been a large

increase in roading policy and consent work and it was not a function the cadet was able to carry out.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT the Council delete the employment of a Community Development Officer.

The motion was seconded by Cr Sharp.

Cr Harvey thought it was short sighted to take out the Community Development Officer's position. There were many unique social issues in the community and the Council should know what was happening.

Cr Davis noted there had been two supervisors in employed in the past in the Roding Department. She could see the need for an Asset Planner but questioned whether a full time Community Development Officer was really necessary.

Cr Heller was also concerned about the employment of a Community Development Officer. He referred to the large rate increase and thought times were tough for the ratepayers. He could not support the appointment of a Community Development Officer this year.

Cr Sharp agreed with Cr Heller and thought a part time roading position was a great suggestion. He felt the Asset Planner should also be deferred for a year.

Cr Bolger suggested that the Asset Planner was essential to the LTCCP's background work and to employ one after the LTCCP had been done would be a major mistake. He said the Roding Manager was currently working long hours, which was unacceptable. The Council needed to free up his time, so he could make best use of the available government subsidies. He was unsure what to do about a Community Development Officer as there were certainly issues in the District.

The Roding Manager cautioned the Council about hiring a part time Roding Supervisor as it could be difficult to find somebody of the right calibre if the position was limited to part time.

Cr Bolger said he could certainly accept the need for a full time Roding Supervisor.

Cr Heller said he supported employing an Asset Planner, but not the appointment of a Community Development Officer. He noted the Council had indicated it would employ an Asset Planner as part of its LTCCP self-assessment.

His Worship noted the self-assessment also included the Community Development Officer.

Cr Highsted asked whether more office space was required for the additional staff.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said a desk would be made available in the short term, but the Regulatory Department required more space for record storage, and privacy for conversations with clientele. A plan for expansion would be in the LTCCP review if the current option was precluded.

His Worship agreed with Cr Harvey that the Council was being short sighted and felt some of the Councillors were unaware of the daily issues he had to address on social challenges in the District. People looked to the Council for leadership and direction. It was easy to say people got themselves into trouble so it was their problem, however, the Council could be part of the solution. He suggested the Council think very carefully about removing the employment of a Community Development Officer from the plan and he would be disappointed if it chose to do so.

The motion was put and it was lost.

His Worship said the appointment of a Community Development Officer's would remain in place. It was a step of faith and the Council had the opportunity to help lead the social challenges before it.

Cr Bolger asked for a measurement of the Community Development Officer's achievements so it could be assessed.

Cr Harvey said it needed to be for a longer period of time than twelve months.

Cr Davis thought the position could be part time to start with and develop further if required.

Cr Dixey referred to the issue about the parks and reserves rateable contribution and asked if it should be reviewed again in the future.

His Worship said there would be an opportunity to review funding policies during the LTCCP review.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT the recommendation suggested by the Federated Farmers as follows, *"the Parks and Reserves Working Party review the proposed level of service for the Parks and Reserves activity and look at reducing it for the*

coming year, to the extent the operating cost is no more than 80% of that currently proposed, as a start towards further deductions” be referred to the Parks and Reserves Working Party.

The motion was seconded by Cr Dixey.

Cr Grant felt most rural ratepayers were entitled to claim tax deductions on rates, while most urban ratepayers could not. He believed those complaining about multiple rates had made the initial choice to split their properties.

Cr Harvey did not believe it was appropriate as the guidelines for the Parks and Reserves Working Party were to ascertain whether to dispose of any parks and reserves.

His Worship said the Working Party had initially been set up to review funding and breadth of ownership. Funding had already been looked at.

Cr McLennan suggested another Working Party be formed to look at the funding policy.

The motion was put and it was carried.

2008/65

Submission No 22 – New Zealand Historic Places Trust

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Council take no action.

2008/66

Submission No 23 – Gore Rural Ratepayers Group

Cr Bolger advised the supposed difference between urban and rural flat targeted rates on reserves did not include the contribution from urban commercial. He said the request for \$130,000 to be moved from parks and reserves to roading was incorrect. If an additional \$130,000 was put into rural roading, it would increase rural rates by a further 6%. If the Council had chosen to carry on unsubsidised seal extensions, it would only be able to seal one kilometre of road per annum. He referred to Page 84 of the LTCCP and noted the expenditure on rural roading had continued without reduction.

Submission No 24 – Technical Submission from the Parks and Recreation Manager

The Parks and Recreation Manager had received feedback from Councillors for additional rubbish bins on three sites, Woolwich Street, Gore Main Reserve and outside the new indoor events

centre. The initial cost would be \$5,900 and \$1,150 every year thereafter for maintenance.

Cr Davis suggested that Woolwich Street could require only one new bin and relocate the existing bin to a better position.

Cr Dixon thought the bins were costly and was surprised at the emptying cost.

In response to His Worship about whether there were cheaper alternatives available, the Manager replied he preferred uniformity of bins around the District. In response to Cr Bolger, the mowing operators currently had to pick up refuse before mowing so time would be saved by putting in extra bins.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the Council approve the purchase of four new litter bins,

AND THAT the Parks and Recreation Manager use his discretion in the location of the new litter bins.

2008/67

Submission No 25 – Hokonui Horizons

Cr Dixey asked for a representative from the Youth Council to be part of Hokonui Horizons.

His Worship hoped the Youth Council would attend its upcoming Youth Forum. He was hopeful changes currently being made to the Council website would address the submitters concerns.

Submission No 26 – Eastern Southland Sustainable Living Group

The Council perused the submission.

Submission No 27 – Mr Doug Hasler

His Worship said storage of wheelie bins would need to be addressed when the Council looked at recycling.

Submission No 28 – Eastern Southland Federated Farmers

The General Manager, Corporate Services tabled a summary of administration costs over the past three years.

Cr Davis departed the meeting 6:46 pm.

The Roothing Manager said the higher the performance level of roading, the more it would cost to maintain. All local authorities had a level of tolerance in the contracts. Reviews of performance levels were currently being undertaken and it would be put out for public consultation.

Cr McLennan departed the meeting at 6:48 pm.

His Worship asked how it would be done.

The Roothing Manager advised he was currently working on the performance framework and at its completion; a workshop would be held and subsequently put out for public consultation.

Cr McLennan returned to the meeting at 6:49 pm.

His Worship referred to the report tabled and felt it should provide the submitter with some clarity on the issue.

Cr Davis returned to the meeting at 6:50 pm.

The General Manager, Corporate Services said the summary provided a snapshot of what had happened over the past three years. Administration costs had increased by 3.30% including inflation. If the CPI had been taken into account, it would have increased by 10%. He had itemised the major items where increases had arisen and savings had been made. The balance had been absorbed into the budget. The asset management plans were a requirement of the Auditor-General and he had been able to prune other costs to keep the increase to a minimum.

His Worship thanked him for the outline and asked how the administration costs had been apportioned to the various departments.

The General Manager advised he had used the allocation that had been created by his predecessor. It had been calculated on a percentage allocated to each department based on how the staff had contributed to it. He had not had a chance to review it.

Cr Gardyne referred to the submission about the increased organisational capacity and Mr Morrison's appendix, in which he had tried to identify the cost of salaries, consultants and contractors, compared to what was clarified in the plan for new positions and standard rate increases. He wondered if it would be appropriate for Mr Morrison to meet with the General Manager, for an explanation about the unaccounted increase of \$292,000.

The General Manager said he would be happy to speak further with Mr Morrison, although he had already addressed the issues. He thought the administration apportionment could be made more transparent.

Cr Gardyne asked if it would be appropriate to review the parks and reserves administration apportionment.

His Worship said it was not the correct time to look at that.

Submission No 29 – Mrs Sally McIntyre

His Worship said the rural and urban roading budgets were shown separately in the monthly financial reports.

The Chief Executive thought her submission concerned the Annual Plan and LTCCP.

His Worship said it could be shown separately in the LTCCP.

Submission No 30 – New Zealand Red Cross

Cr Dixey felt there should be some charge for those using the service. He thought the situation had been made to look worse than it was to entice the Council to support it.

His Worship disagreed.

Cr Heller agreed it should be user pays and he had heard from people that the Chief Executive and His Worship had already confirmed the Council's commitment.

His Worship asked who had made the comments. He had been approached by Grey Power about nine months earlier about the inability for elderly persons on limited incomes to make hospital appointments in Invercargill or Dunedin. Grey Power had looked for support from various agencies around the District to provide a vehicle. He had thought it a worthy cause and said the Council would support it if it could. Other agencies chose not to be involved and it seemed like it had gone to ground. However, the Red Cross had become involved, and it had sought support from the Council and he believed the easiest way to support it was by providing a contribution towards fuel costs. There may have been an assumption made along the way, but that was the extent of his commitment.

Cr Gardyne thought it needed support, but he was again concerned about the lack of projected income or expenditure.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT the Council approve a \$2,500 grant towards the fuel costs associated with the Eastern

Southland Rural Transport Scheme, subject to a projection of costs submitted by Red Cross,

THAT a report be provided to the Council on 30 June 2009 from the scheme,

AND THAT the Council take cognisance of New Zealand Red Cross's ability to underwrite the venture for a period of one year.

The motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

Cr McLennan said the Council had contributed an enormous amount to different groups for community wellbeing. The people who would benefit from such a scheme had made a fair contribution to social type facilities in the past. The elderly were the minority in the community and he sympathised with their cause.

Cr McLennan moved THAT the Council approve a \$10,000 grant to the Eastern Southland Rural Transport Scheme,

AND THAT information about the number of people using the scheme and contributions received be provided to the Council.

His Worship said Sally Wäst from New Zealand Red Cross had intimated three monthly reports would be provided to the Council.

The motion was seconded by Cr Highsted.

Cr Dixey departed the meeting at 7:11 pm.

Cr Grant believed beneficiaries were paid to attend hospital appointments.

His Worship agreed, but a vehicle was still required to get to them.

Cr Grant felt it was more a central government agency's type role, as the Government had been responsible for removing health services from local communities.

His Worship thought the Community Development Officer could have input into this issue. Government agencies were willing to make amends by making connections and a dedicated person could possibly get funding.

Cr Harvey agreed it should be looked after by central government but if waiting for help, it would take a few years.

His Worship said the scheme would happen regardless of Council's help.

Cr Dixey returned to the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Cr Davis was not supportive of a grant for \$10,000 but she thought half the amount could be a start and the Council could review it the following year. She said the Council already supplied a vehicle to the local hospital and supported the Total Mobility Scheme. She suggested the Mataura Licensing Trust could be approached for assistance with the initiative.

Cr Davis moved as an amendment, THAT the Council approve a \$5,000 grant to the Eastern Southland Rural Transport Scheme.

The amendment was seconded by Cr Sharp.

Cr Dixon thought if the Council gave the full amount and its participants made donations for the service, it may not require future funding.

Cr Gardyne thought community support would help with the purchase of a second vehicle. He believed the fuel costs would be more likely to be \$20,000 at the current fuel price. He felt a contribution of 25% was sufficient and supported the amendment.

Cr Davis believed the Council was encouraging the public to not try very hard to get funding if it gave the full amount. She thought the participants should be required to make a donation for use of the service.

His Worship said Red Cross would operate the vehicle and he was certain any contributions given would be accounted for. It would also provide three monthly reports to the Council. He did not believe the Council had been treated as a way of getting easy money in this instance.

The amendment was put and it was lost.

His Worship said the Council would know at the end of the twelve months whether the scheme had been successful.

Cr Heller asked if the grant would be paid three monthly or in its entirety up front.

The Chief Executive said most of the larger grants were paid quarterly and expected it would be treated the same.

Cr Sharp moved THAT the Council approve a \$7,500 grant to the Eastern Southland Rural Transport Scheme,

AND THAT information about the number of people utilising the scheme and contributions received be provided to the Council.

The motion was seconded by Cr Davis, was put and it was carried.

2008/68

Submission No 31 – Gore Amateur Radio Club

Cr Gardyne felt it was premature to approach the Council for funding for this type of project. It needed to split into quarters with the involvement of the Mataura Licensing Trust and the Community Trust of Southland. He thought it could be the first job for the Community Development Officer and the Council should defer its contribution to a third or a quarter subject to applications from the other funding agencies.

Cr Gardyne moved THAT the Council support in principle a grant of \$3,000 for the Gore Amateur Radio Club in the future, subject to applications being sought from the Mataura Licensing Trust and the Community Trust of Southland.

The Chief Executive clarified there would be no funding in the current financial year for the project.

Cr Gardyne asked how his motion would work.

The Chief Executive said if the Council agreed in principle, either a sum of money would need to be suggested to put in the budget and it would not be paid out until the balance of the proceeds required had been raised. Or it could be left until the following year with fundraising intact and the Council could rate for it.

The motion was seconded by Cr Dixey, was put and it was carried.

2008/69

Submission 32 – Roothing New Zealand

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the submission be accepted.

2008/70

The Chief Executive explained the submission was about putting an inflationary clause in contracts to take cognisance of the spike in oil prices.

The Roothing Manager said there had been a general circular issued by Land Transport New Zealand in May strongly recommending that a cost fluctuation clause (CFC) in upcoming reseal contracts be included. The formula relied on statistics from Statistics New Zealand in conjunction with Land Transport New Zealand on a quarterly basis. Reseal programmes happened very quickly with a lot of money spent over a short period of time. If a CFC was included in the contract, especially with oil prices increasing at high speed, the Council would have no control over its contract price, thus rendering the budget irrelevant. He was concerned the Council could be penalised at the tender stage, but it had the ability to reduce the type of work being implemented to ensure it kept within budget. A compromise could see the CFC being reviewed a month prior to the work being done. He had requested the sealing companies to take his concerns on board and come up with some possible solutions. He had also made strong representations to Land Transport New Zealand as the advice given in the circular was poor and more serious thought was needed. The sealing companies had intimated that they would prefer not to take on any risk and let the Council take it all at the expense of the ratepayers.

His Worship thought the submission should be noted.

Cr Highsted asked if there was scope for both options, so the Council could see the difference with the CFC factored into the contract to give transparency as to what the premium could be.

The Manager thought it could be a possibility and invited the Council to provide him with feedback. A tender contract was currently being prepared and there had been no decision made on which option to take.

Cr Gardyne asked if the CFC related to fuel or was it specific to bitumen.

The Manager replied the reseal contract was dominated by the price of bitumen which was a product of the oil distillation process and formed a large part of the formula.

The Council would need to expect much higher rates for future sealing tenders especially if the companies knew it had to take all the risk. There could be an interim position the Council could take.

His Worship thought it would be appropriate to take the comments on board and asked for a copy of the letter written to be provided to all Councillors.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT a letter be written to Roding New Zealand expressing the Council's disagreement about including a cost fluctuation clause in its resale contracts.

2008/71

His Worship thanked the Councillors for their input over the course of the meeting.

RESOLVED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the Council adopt its 2008/09 Annual Plan, subject to any aforementioned amendments.

2008/72

The meeting concluded at 7:41 pm