

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2008, AT 7.30 pm

**Stephen Parry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

22 October 2008

A G E N D A

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 23 September 2008.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council, held on Tuesday 14 October 2008.

Confirmation of the Report of the Regulatory Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 14 October 2008.

Confirmation of the Report of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting, held on Tuesday 14 October 2008.

2. URGENT LATE BUSINESS – as tabled at the meeting, pursuant to Section 46 (a)(7) of the Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

3. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

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4. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON VENTURE SOUTHLAND - REMUNERATION

(Pages 2-5)

5. 2008 TOUR OF SOUTHLAND CYCLE RACE

(Pages 6-8)

6. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

(Pages 9-17)

7. NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATE
(Page 18)

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

9. APPROVED URGENT LATE ITEMS

10. BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987:

(i) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Gore District Council, held in Committee, on Tuesday 23 September 2008.

(ii) OTHER BUSINESS

- Penny per Unit Agreement

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

OCTOBER 2008

3. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Operations Bulletin containing reports from the Animal Control Contractor, Assets Manager, Utilities, Roading Manager and the Civil Defence Officer is enclosed with the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Bulletin be received.

4. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON VENTURE SOUTHLAND: REMUNERATION

(Memo from Chief Executive – 21.10.08)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider whether the Council should pay additional remuneration to its representative on the Board of Venture Southland. Cr Heller, as the Council's representative on Venture Southland, has asked that this matter be discussed by the Council.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 As councillors will be aware, at the April 2008 meeting of the Council, Cr Heller was appointed as the Council's representative on Venture Southland. Cr Heller's appointment followed Cr Highsted's unavailability to attend to all of the demands of the Director's position. Cr Highsted was the Council's initial appointment at its Statutory Meeting following the last triennial elections in October 2007.

2.2 Since assuming the role of Director, Cr Heller has become quite immersed in the governance of Venture Southland, necessitating a considerable commitment in time. I enclose a copy of a schedule prepared by Cr Heller which details time spent fulfilling the role of Director since his appointment.

2.3 Cr Heller has advised that given the extent of involvement in the governance of Venture Southland and the time commitment required, he believes some additional remuneration is warranted.

2.4 Supporting this contention is the fact the other Directors of Venture Southland receive remuneration specifically for the role they perform. In the case of the Invercargill City Council representative, my understanding is that an additional \$7,200 per annum is paid to the Councillor concerned who fulfils the Director role. It is understood that the Deputy Mayor of Southland District Council performs the duties of Director of Venture Southland as part of the Deputy Mayoral package.

3.0 Is Venture Southland A Special Case?

3.1 A valid question to pose is whether Venture Southland is different from other organisations in which the Council has representation. It is proffered that a credible case for

differentiation can be submitted in respect of Venture Southland.

3.2 In 2005, the Council was quite vocal and critical about the need for a review of the role and governance structure of Venture Southland. This was due to concerns held about the organisation, at that time not being considered to be sufficiently focused and accountable in its activities.

3.3 As a consequence, a streamlined governance structure with a professional directorate was introduced in March 2007. The expectations of a Director on Venture Southland appear to extend beyond what is routinely expected of a Council representative serving other organisations.

3.4 The size of the organisation in which requires representation also needs to be considered. Venture Southland is an enterprise with extensive involvement in economic development, tourism and community development. The organisation has an annual turnover of \$6 million which dwarfs other community organisations in which the Council is represented.

4.0 Impact on Council Budget

4.1 If an increase in remuneration paid to the Council's representative on Venture Southland is to be entertained, the first question that arises is how much extra would be involved? Based on what is paid to the Invercargill City Council representative, an emolument of \$7200 can be anticipated.

4.2 Venture Southland is not a separate legal entity. It is a joint committee of the Invercargill City, Southland and Gore District Councils. Therefore, any extra remuneration payable to the Council's representative will have to be paid out of the remuneration pool for elected members set by the Remuneration Authority.

4.3 If the Council wishes to increase the remuneration payable to its representative on Venture Southland, it will therefore need to adjust salaries paid to other Councillors to stay within the pool of funds set by the Remuneration Authority.

5.0 OPTIONS

Cr Heller has made it clear that he would like the remuneration issue for his Venture Southland commitments addressed. The options open to the Council therefore appear to be:-

5.1 Increase The Remuneration Paid To Councillor Heller

This will involve the reduction in salaries of other Councillors which may not be particularly palatable.

5.2 Appoint Another Councillor To Venture Southland

Assuming there is another Councillor prepared to take on the role, there will be a loss to Venture Southland if Cr Heller does not continue as a Director. This loss pertains to Cr Heller's accounting skills and experience, which I understand have added considerable value to the Board of Venture Southland.

5.3 Make An Outside Appointment To Represent Its Interests

The Council could make an appointment from within the Gore District community to represent its interests on Venture Southland. Such an appointment could be undertaken via a contestable process and any payment made for the performance of Director would sit outside the Remuneration pool. There is no reason why a Councillor with the required skills could not secure this appointment. Any Director's fee payable would need to be added to the Democracy budget.

RECOMMENDATION

As this is purely a political matter, I am unable to submit a recommendation. Hopefully this report provides sufficient background information and a spread of options to enable the Council to determine a preferred course of action.

5. 2008 TOUR SOUTHLAND CYCLE RACE: REQUEST FOR PROMOTIONAL GRANT

(Memo from Chief Executive – 22.10.08)

As Councillors will be aware the Tour of Southland Cycle Race is an iconic event which holds a prestigious place not only in the Southland Sporting calendar, but within Australasian cycling aficionado's hearts.

Attached is a request received from Tour Manager, Bruce Ross for the Council to pledge a grant of \$1000 plus GST to assist with the promotion of the event in the Gore District.

There is no specific budgetary provision for the payment of the grant. However, in the past the Council has demonstrated a willingness to depart from its budget and make a modest grant for a meritorious cause. It is suggested that the Tour of Southland Cycle Race may fall into this category.

Obviously this is a one-off request, and if then it was to become an annual contribution, then it would need to be subjected to the annual rigour and submitting of other regular grants, via the annual planning process.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council approve a grant in the sum of \$1000 being advanced in favour of the 2008 Tour of Southland Cycle Race to assist with promotion of the event while it passes through the Gore District.

6. MATAURA COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

(Memo from Chief Executive – 22.10.08)

A copy of the report of the ordinary meeting of the Maitaura Community Board held on 13 October 2008 is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report of the meeting held on 13 October be received,

AND THAT the recommendations contained within the report be ratified.

7. NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RATE

(Memo from Roading Manager – 20.10.08)

The NZ Transport Agency has advised all Road Controlling Authorities (RCAs), including the Gore District Council, that the financial assistance rate (FAR) which will apply to the Gore District road funding during the next three financial years from 2009-10 will remain at its current rate.

The formula used to calculate the FAR indicated that a reduction from the current rate of 56% to 55% should occur and this was expected to apply from the 2008-09 year. However because of the many changes in the land transport sector including the submission of a three year Land Transport Programme the FAR has been kept at its current rate to provide some funding certainty to RCA's.

The moratorium on alteration to the FAR is a continuation from the previous two years and obviously as a Road Controlling Authority which has a reduction in its FAR calculated we should be pleased that we continue to benefit from the moratorium.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

His Worship to move

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely the items as listed below.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing the resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<u>General Subject Matter</u>	<u>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</u>	<u>Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution</u>
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Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Gore District Council, held in Committee, on Tuesday 23 September 2008.

Other Business

Penny Per Unit Agreement

Enable any local authority holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

Section 7 (2)(i)