

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2009, AT 5.00 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roding Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Plumbing and Drainage Inspector (Mr Lester Paisley), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and six members of the public in the gallery.

APOLOGY Cr Grant apologised for absence.

1. PRESENTATION ON SOUTHERN RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY (15.5.3)

Mr David Adamson of the Southland District Council, and Mr Mike Grant, Principal Rural Fire Officer provided a presentation on the Southern Rural Fire Authority to the meeting.

2. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Roding Manager.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Roding Manager advised a short section of the east leg of the drain on Stuart Street, Mataura had a long history of causing problems to neighbours because of ponding and flooding in that area. Several sumps linking into existing ditches had been installed and the gravel pavement had been upgraded. It was working well.

Cr Davis noted the maps provided were a copyright and wondered who supplied them to Council and at what cost.

The Manager advised the maps were produced from an add-on to the Council's RAMM system that was hosted by a remote company at no additional cost.

Cr Gardyne found it difficult to find north on the maps and thought the presentation of them could be a lot better.

The Manager said the maps were quite a new initiative, and the alignment and presentation would continue to improve.

In response to Cr Gardyne's suggestion to change the term "widen gravel roads" in his report to "restore gravel roads", the Manager said some roads had been widened or restored.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the report be received.

3. REPORT FROM ASSET MANAGER UTILITIES (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Asset Manager, Utilities.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said staff were working on meeting the timeframe set for the oxidation pond. There was still work to do and clarification required on sludge and alum issues.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager said the sludge removal had not yet been budgeted for. It had been sampled and a report completed. It had 12½ years to remove the sludge, hopefully it would be done sooner. Potential costs and options to remove and dispose of the sludge were being investigated.

Cr Heller wondered what effect the Mataura Valley Milk Company might have on the 12½ year timeframe.

The Manager said dependent on what level of treatment was used at the MVM plant and how much solid went through the plant, would depend on whether it affected the 12½ year timeframe.

Cr Gardyne thought at the time the Central Saleyards Company applied for a consent to discharge, the Manager's report said the ponds were at or near capacity and wondered how it related to the Mataura Valley Milk discharge. He thought it needed expanding on as decisions were made going forward.

The Manager said there were two levels to look at, being biological and sediment.

The General Manager, District Assets clarified that the current oxidation ponds report referred to the hydraulic capacity of the ponds. When addressing the Central Saleyards issue it was looking at the ability of the ponds to process the waste it could get on a daily basis. It was looking at two different comparisons.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Manager said tests completed on the sludge had shown high zinc levels.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the report be received.

4. REPORT FROM CIVIL DEFENCE (45.6.1)

The Committee perused the report from the General Manager, District Assets for civil defence.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the report be received.

Cr Harvey thought some form of appreciation could be shown to the recently retired Civil Defence Officer, Mr Joe Cummings.

The Chief Executive advised a staff function would be held on Tuesday 20 October to acknowledge Mr Cummings efforts. A formal letter had been sent to Mr Cumming recently acknowledging his services to the organisation and wider community.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Dixon, that a note of appreciation be made to acknowledge the 17 years of service from Mr Joe Cummings.

5. REPORT FROM ANIMAL CONTRACTOR (34.4.1)

The Committee perused the report from the Animal Control Contractor.

Cr Dixon asked for some clarification on the numbers of properties visited for registration checks.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT the report be received.

6. URBAN WATER SUPPLY WORKING PARTY (8.17.1)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets advising the terms of reference for the Working Party and the staff who would be involved.

Cr Dixon queried the wording of the 6th point of the terms of reference and would like to think something was already in place to identify leakage reduction procedures.

The Asset Manager, Utilities said there were varying means. It was quite a lengthy process. Larger areas with older pipes were targeted first.

The Chief Executive suggested the word “*identify*” be replaced with “*review*”.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the terms of reference be approved,

AND THAT Crs Davis, Harvey, Sharp, Dixon and Dixey be appointed to the Urban Water Supply Working Party.

7. OTAMA GROUND WATER TAKE RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS (8.42)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets advising Environment Southland had advised the Council that it had received a resource consent application for a water permit from JR and CR Martin.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixon, seconded by Cr McLennan, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the Council oppose the Otama ground water take resource consent application.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm