

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting – 22nd May 2013

[LINK to the appropriate Agenda](#)

This month's Finance meeting started at 0900hrs with Cr Warwick Syers in the chair wishing all a good morning and welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Warwick advised that as everyone was there, there were no apologies.

Time at 0900hrs, Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 22 May 2013 (Page 1)

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr John Williamson.

These were received along with the Confidential minutes (C.1.) with no discussion required.

With it now at 0901hrs, Item No.2. Financial Report for the Ten Months Ending 30 April 2013. (Page 3)

Warwick asked CEO Mark Simpson to go through the report in the absence of Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock, in the normal fashion and give a brief overview. Mark Simpson claimed Alan had talked to council about this at a focus group. Developer contributions being down had boosted the down-turn. Mark continued claiming "It was not a particular flash outlook". There could be improvements subject to 'property sales proposed'.

Moved: Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Seconded: Cr Brian McLachlan.

Cr Phil Halse, in reference to Page 5, wished to congratulate staff on the favourable result of \$382,000-00 on the Ruakaka South Sewerage scheme.

Cr Sue Glen asked if they should have funding budgeted for the over runs because of storms etc. *Would it not be wise to have a Contingency Fund? Then again this could have been driven by the wisdom of the Chair of Finance, but he has been busy pushing debt up. As someone said it depends on what accountancy school one went to. Asset sales may seem the answer to some, but what about the loss in income and what happens when you have no assets left?*

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time was now at 0905hrs and on to Item No. 3. Support Services Group – Report on Recent Activity. (Page 24)

CEO Mark Simpson, under instruction to speak by the chair, commented that Alan was normally here but this information had been in councilor's hands for the last couple of months.

The recommendation was moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

Cr John Williamson had a question on 'objections' (Page 27, Para 2)

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query on Direct Debits for Land Rates. (Page 27, Para 5) *Would you really want to give them control of your Bank a/c?*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans had a query on Communications; face book and Twitter followers. (Page 29, Para 3)

CEO Mark Simpson made brief mention of the TV ad that had appeared about the bridge. *Was it an 'ad' or a photo that appeared during the weather sector of the TV1 news? [Like this](#) or [this](#) (photo 67 of 213)*

There was no further discussion on this item.

With the time at 0910hrs, Item No. 4. Positive Growth Group Report on Recent Activity. (Page 33)

Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer wanted to acknowledge the support of councillors, particularly for assistance with the Endless Summer Festival. Jude advised that they were waiting for a national announcement on Whangarei's bid for the FIFA Under 20 World Cup. In reference to Page 35 in the agenda Jude informed that Toll Stadium is 'multi use'. *Don't see it being used, as promised, for gymnastics, league, soccer, indoor bowls etc. Oh that's right got the project now.*

Jude also wanted to complement the people who had the markets over summer. *Yes they did a great job.*

Jude advised there had also been an increase in movements at the airport. *Don't tell me the increase in movements is Simmo on a mission out there again; visiting people and harassing them who write about him in the media?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked what was the process of 'Mandating Hui for TeHuinga/Te Karearea Maori Representatives' on Page 37.

Jude Thompson advised it was Marae based.

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked if it was going to Hapu representation.

Jude Thompson claimed it was to be Hapu based.

Moved: Cr Phil Halse, Seconded: Cr Merv Williams.

Cr Merv Williams claimed there was a scarcity of 'Love it Here' stickers on council vehicles. There was also a query on the 'Super Rugby Pre Season Fixture. (Page 33)

Cr Warwick Syers advised it was a Northland Rugby event and could have been promoted better. *Is that because Warwick is no longer pulling the strings there?*

Cr Shelley Deeming informed that all the rally cars had 'Love it Here' stickers on them.

Cr Merv Williams made comment "and that only took them 2 days to put them on".

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed it was good to see some positive figures for the museum. *They have had some great days up there for the public and promoted well.*

Cr Sue Glen claims she thought the report was marvelous; they had taken the steps to the next level. She was 'Proud to be here and just loved it here'.

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query in reference to the Central City car park, (Page 36) asking had there been an increase in patronage.

Mike Hibbert, Property & Community Services Manager advised that occupancy had only increased slightly. Other areas have increased more; some areas are up to 80% and 90%. *80% & 90% of what? 10, 50, or 100 numbers show a better picture than percentages.*

Mike advised security gates were also going on 'reserved parking areas'.

Cr Warwick Syers added a comment; that soccer usage was greater at Toll Stadium, than rugby.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans wanted it noted that he had seen many 'Love it Here' posters around town and it appeared they didn't attract graffiti, which proves people are proud of their town.

Cr Phil Halse asked where does the 'Maori Development Department' (Page 36) come from. Phil also advised that he was chairing a meeting for the 'Hikurangi Swamp' tomorrow and he would like to be updated by staff on issues around this (Headwaters to Harbour Project).

CEO Mark Simpson advised the 'Maori Development Department' consisted of Solomon Tipene (Maori Relationships Manager) and Andre Hemara (Maori Engagement Officer); we have no extra staff for this.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked what was the interest in the 'Tahuna Reef Restaurant' property at the Town Basin.

Jude Thompson advised there was some interest in it but it was 'commercially sensitive'.

There are some interesting stories about the bungle down there and we understand if you want to purchase some restaurant equipment; deep fryers, hot plates, chairs, tables, cash registers etc you may wish to contact our 'lone star', M.H. He may wish to check out his cupboard for you; as we may all own it?

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0929hrs that the meeting ends and, thanks all for attending.

Off for a stretch of the legs before the Council meeting at 1000hrs

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 22 May 2013 (Page1)

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Whangarei District Council website by clicking on this [link](#).