

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting – 24th April 2013

[LINK to the appropriate Agenda](#)

This month's Finance meeting started at 0900hrs with Cr Warwick Syers in the chair wishing a good morning to Ladies and Gentlemen, a welcome to the Finance and Support Committee meeting, a welcome to members of the public, councillors and staff.

Warwick advised there were apologies for Cr Phil Halse and Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Sue Glen.

Warwick wished to advise that today's meeting was to be recorded with both audio and video in an unobtrusive manner.

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda but was not mentioned in the meeting.
Perhaps it's a little alien to this lot?

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Members are reminded to indicate any items in which they might have a conflict of interest.

Time at 0901hrs, Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 27 March 2013. (Page 1)

Moved: Cr Crichton Christie, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

These were received with no discussion required.

With the time still at 0902hrs, Item No.2. Financial Report for the Nine Months Ending 31 March 2013. (Page 4)

Warwick asked Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock to take us through the report in the normal fashion and give a brief overview.

Alan Adcock advised that nothing much had changed since last month showing a slightly negative variance. Development contributions were down. The overall end of year variance was showing \$922,000-00 against the budgeted of \$2.2 million.

The extra (on line 10 of page 17) was for extra concrete, extra lighting needed and pontoons on the Lower Hatea Crossing and approaches.

However he explained there was a portion of land alongside the bridge which was surplus and may be sold to offset expenses. *Will they get \$30million for that? Or better still \$175mill to clear the debt?*

Alan added that the accounts receivable were tracking well.

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Morris Cutforth. *Oh he spoke!*

Cr Crichton Christie asked if \$900,000-00 was the total over run on the Lower Hatea Crossing project.

Alan Adcock replied that was councils share.

Cr Crichton Christie asked so the over run was \$1.8mill then.

Alan Adcock replied 'No'.

Cr Crichton Christie claimed he was getting conflicting figures then. *Oh that's great we only thought it was the public that got those.*

Cr Brian McLachlan queried the information (on page 17, line 17) Replacement of Bridges and Other structures.

Alan Adcock advised that was the Rust Avenue Bridge.

Cr Merv Williams wanted to thank the staff for coming back with information on resource consents. He added that he had been aware council was sending out information with no stamps on the envelope which was costing ratepayers \$1.10 to receive it.

Alan Adcock assures the meeting it was an error.

That comment obviously tickled Morris Cutforth's sense of humour as he was witnessed by the public gallery having a laugh about that. *Funny seeing the ratepayers cough up a bit more is it Morris?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland informs the meeting not so long ago we were receiving emails about how little the pontoons were going to cost.

Cr Greg Martin claims he will include it in the figures going out on the 1st of May.

Cr Kahu Sutherland insists it should be discussed in the public meeting, the public need to be informed. *Hey Kahu, we must be at the wrong meeting, they don't like working in that fashion.*

Cr John Williamson queried the variance on parking as shown on page 5. *Would that be many are now not using the parking since fees were introduced or raised?*

There was no additional discussion on this item.

Time was now at 0916hrs and on to Item No. 3, Cost of Borrowing. (Page 25)

Alan Adcock went through the report and gave a brief on it.

The recommendation was moved: Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards. Cr Shelley Deeming congratulated the staff on the savings they have made on debt. *Well to those that think the greater the debt the larger the savings then maybe some of [this](#) may help.*

There was no further discussion on this item.

With the time at 0927hrs, Item No. 4. Northland Events Centre Trust – Draft Statement of Intent. (Page 29) (

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

Cr Warwick Syers advised this item was for 'information'.

Cr Brian McLachlan in reference to page 34 asked 'do you have sets of budgets'.

Cr Shelley Deeming believed there should be accolades for the 'Multi Events' being held there. *But what happened to the codes that were promised facilities at the 'Multi Events Centre' when it was being pushed for approval? E.g. League, soccer, gymnastics, indoor bowls, hockey, concerts, shows etc. Oh yes they were the pawns used to get the funding then sent hoping.*

Cr Crichton Christie claimed he was happy as most stadiums around the world lose money and ours is still 25% untenanted. *Have all the loans been repaid and the ratepayers reimbursed? Promises were made how great it was going to be to make mega bucks; just*

like the Hundertwasser project they claim will bring prosperity to Northland. I've got my hat all ready to eat!

There was no further discussion on this item.

There was a vote for the public to be excluded before going into the **confidential** section of the meeting and this was moved by Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Not bad for an open and transparent meeting? 4 items in the public section and 1 item in confidential.

Just a reminder, didn't Morris campaign that he wanted open and transparent council? And he always also tends to vote for it to go into confidential. Just another thing he did an 'about turn on'.

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0933hrs that the meeting ends and, thanks all for attending.

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

CONFIDENTIAL INDEX

Item No. C.1 Doubtful Debt

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