

## Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> July 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 the members of the public, press, staff and His Worship the Mayor to the meeting.

Warwick advised it was 100% attendance, hence there were no apologies.

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

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda but was not mentioned in the meeting.  
*Perhaps at times, 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 0900hrs, Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 26 June 2013. (Page 1)

Moved: Cr Phil Halse, Seconded Cr Shelley Deeming.

These were received with no discussion required.

With the time still at 0901hrs, Item No.2. Financial Report for the Twelve Months Ending 30 June 2013. (Page 3)

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

Alan Adcock informed that it was a helicopter view of what we have to report. These are the final accounts for the year with the accountants yet to view them.

In reference to Page 4, Alan advised income was down on budget due to less resource consents, but this could be offset by operating expense savings. There are some timing issues that affect these results.

In reference to Page 16, Alan advised there were some small over-runs on line 10, Lower Harbour Crossing and on line 17 as this equated to the Rust Avenue Bridge being delayed. Interesting to see DEBT is at \$178.429million. (Page 22)

Alan advised the cost of borrowing was down from 5.7% to 5.56%. (Page 23)

He added there had been an increase in the number of rates being paid in advance and this had increased to \$1.59million.

Moved: Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Seconded: Cr Sue Glen.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans claimed there were a number of unfavorable variances in parking, rubbish bag revenue and dog control revenue. He also noted developer contributions were down.

Cr Merv Williams started a discussion on developer contributions.

Cr Greg Martin insisted that he didn't think *(he should have stopped then)* they should be reducing developer contributions in a bid to encourage people to come here. He claimed it should be fair and equitable for everyone. *(Is he in election mode?)*

Cr Sharon Morgan had a question on why the cost of borrowing was lower.

Alan Adcock gave an explanation.

Cr Phil Halse claimed there had been much discussion at the recent Local government conference where many other councils claimed they had declining populations. We have a growing population and this will assist us into the future.

Cr Warwick Syers wished to thank the finance department for doing a good job. The budgets weren't being met but now they were tracking very well. This goes back to what happened at the start where we got the line items right.

Time was now at 0917hrs and on to Item No. 3. Delegated Authority – Financial. (Page 25)

Cr Warwick Syers advised this was just a formality to give this allowance.

The recommendation was moved: Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr John Williamson.

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if this was a new role.

Alan Adcock advised it was a relatively new role.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked 'do we have a face on this position?'

Cr Warwick Syers claims it was common sense for operations.

There was no further discussion on this item.

With the time at 0919hrs, Item No. 4. Council Controlled Organisation – Exemption. (Page 26)

Cr Warwick Syers explained that 'exemption saves auditing hassles and means they only have to produce a statement of intent'. He added 'It doesn't have the same auditing aggression put into it'.

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded: Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0hrs that the meeting ends and, thanks all for attending.

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

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