

**Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting –
24th October 2012**

[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. *We noted however that the clock in the chamber was showing 1000hrs.*

Warwick advised there were no apologies. *Strange; Cr John Williamson and Cr Kahu Sutherland did not appear to be present.*

Time at 0900hrs, Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 26 September 2012. (Page 1)

Moved: Cr Greg Martin, Seconded Cr Brian McLachlan.

These were received with no discussion required.

With the time still at 0900hrs, Item No.2. Financial Report for the Three Months Ending 30 September 2012. (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 advised that the Operating Income and Capital Incomes were both on budget. They had changed Capital Expenditure (page 4) to read Capital grants.

Cr John Williamson arrived at 0901hrs.

Debt was now up to \$171.379 million and "where we expected to be". *Weren't they going to keep your debt at \$135 million? Yeah right, not with this spending bunch.*

Cr Kahu Sutherland arrived at 0903hrs.

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

Cr Merv Williams asked what the position was on projected sales. *Now there's a curly one.*

Alan Adcock advised they were looking at re valuations on lease hold properties for sale.

Cr Merv Williams asked if that meant they were unable to achieve budgeted sales.

Alan Adcock informed 'no, not really as there is lots of interest'.

CEO Mark Simpson confirmed that a date of April had been confirmed that morning for arbitration in court.

Cr Brian McLachlan asked how much they were budgeting for in property sales.

Alan Adcock claimed he didn't have those figures on the top of his head at the moment, continuing they will defer capital projects if necessary. *Sounds good but what are the figures?*

Time was now at 0912hrs and on to Item No. 3, Support Services Group – Report on Recent Activity. (Page 23)

Warwick introduced Tania McInnes as the new Promotions Manager.

Warwick again asked Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock to give a brief on the report.

Alan Adcock knocked over his glass of water during this claiming "Another Leaky Building". Alan explained how the Rates Rebate Office had been a great success with over 3000 people having appointments made. Dog registration had also had the Customer service area busy. The rating revaluation is currently underway. (Page 26)

The recommendation was moved: Cr Phil Halse, Seconded: Cr Sue Glen.

With the time at 0916hrs, Item No. 4. Local Government Funding Agency Annual Report 2011 – 2012. (Page 32)

Warwick asked Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock to give another brief. *Gee you are popular today Alan.* Alan advised that he was not going through the whole report as it was very comprehensive about this successful program.

Moved: Cr Merv Williams, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked if Alan had been elected to the Local Government Funding Agency Shareholders Council.

Alan Adcock advised they had put themselves forward but next time these positions would be up for nominations and elections.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time was now at 0921hrs and on to Item No. 5. Delegated Authority – Financial. (Page 69) Cr Warwick Syers explained that Whangarei Art Museum was now a CCO (Council Controlled Organisation) and they now needed a delegated authority to address the payment process and this was part of a systematic procedural matter.

Moved: Cr Warwick Syers , Seconded: Cr Jeroen Jongejans .

Cr Phil Halse advised he was not going to support this as he wouldn't give this to someone he had no control over. *Is this the signs of a control freak?*

A division was called for and Cr Phil Halse, Cr Greg Martin, Cr Aaron Edwards and Cr Brian McLachlan all voted against this item. The recommendation was duly approved.

Cr Greg Martin called "there has been undue haste on this item."

Here ended the discussion.

With the time now at 0925hrs, Item No. 6. Northland Events Centre Trust – Annual Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2012 (Page 70)

John Lynch, Venue and Events Manager, gave a power point presentation which featured highlights of the. Northland Events Centre Trust Annual Report. It represented a good representation of some facts and figures out of this report. John asked if there were any questions.

Receiving the report was moved: Mayor Morris Cutforth, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan. Cr Sharon Morgan asked about the 290 square metres left to lease out.

John Lynch advised they had been close to leasing it with 2 applicants but these were tough economic times.

Cr Sue Glen claimed as an event centre it had presented well and was convinced we have a 'winning model'.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans asked if there was an issue of the lack of a hotel space in Whangarei.

John Lynch advised, yes it does come up from time to time especially with 300 coming for conferences. He had been focusing on attempting to spread them over two locations; but those queries come in fortnightly. *The issue about getting large numbers into Whangarei for conferences is the restrictions with our airport limiting the size of aircraft. Should I have said that? Now 'Farmer Fill' will want an airport across his properties and a stock race under the runway.*

Cr Crichton Christie claimed it was not bad for the second biggest event centre in Whangarei. *Oh ah, that's a plug for Kensington.* He continued, asking are we on target for the Event Centre to stand alone.

John Lynch informed that they anticipated that they won't need any funding from Council. They were focused on keeping on top of maintenance and the board will be looking at any enhancements needed.

Cr Warwick Syers advised that if they let out the other 290 square metres then they will be up for a fit out cost of about \$150,000-00.

Cr Crichton Christie asked if the questions about issues with rugby are finalized.

He was advised that John was about to negotiate the next 3 year license agreement with rugby. *Where will they get the money from, Council?*

Morris Cutforth wanted to congratulate John and his team for the facilities results. He continued that 'anyone who criticized this facility should read this report *(there will be lots reading the report then)*; we have a fantastic venue. *Watch out JL he, 180, may want leads for more celebrant work in his off time.*

Cr Brian McLachlan, in reference to page 81, had queries about the Trust operating the Event Centre and who was responsible for the depreciation.

Cr Warwick Syers gave a detailed explanation of this.

CEO Mark Simpson also explained that the 'structure' is depreciated by council.

Cr Greg Martin added that the Event Centre is about events and told of a recent visit by a Northland school and the memories it had created; he applauded Northland Rugby and the Trust for enabling this. *Perhaps Greg you should also applaud the ratepayers of Northland who pay the bills for it also; don't forget them.*

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0947hrs 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](#).