

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting – 25th July 2012

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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; members of the public, members and staff.

There was an apology received for Cr Aaron Edwards.

Moved: Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Morris Cutforth.

Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 27 June 2012. (Page 1) (0900hrs)

Moved: Cr Sharon Morgan, Seconded: Cr ?

These were received with no discussion required.

With the time still at 0900hrs, Item No.2, Financial Report for the Twelve Months Ending 30 June 2012. (Page 3)

Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock was asked by the chair to give us a run down on the report. Alan advised it was the last month of the operating year. That had reverted back to 'budget' figures for depreciation etc in this report. They were \$1million down on revenue for the year and debt was higher from interest being up. Debt was now up to \$170.167million. *And they were going to keep your debt at \$135million. Are they out of control?*

Moved: Cr Brian McLachlan, Seconded: Cr John Williamson

Cr Brian McLachlan had a query on interest rates and the swapping of interest around requesting a workshop on interest rates as he would like to know the mechanics of it.

Alan Adcock informed that it was a very, very complex area which could best be done with a few slides.

Cr Greg Martin asked if it would be fair to say that they had already calculated these benefits into it?

Cr Merv Williams said there needs to be some explanation for the variances, as he had asked some questions of the accounts and was eagerly waiting to see the adjustments; or will we need reduced activity in some of the areas?

Cr Shelley Deeming felt that if Paul (*Dell*) was there he may have been able to explain as some of these variances as they were in his area.

Cr Warwick Syers comments 'we should park it now and wait for more detail'. *Don't they like some of these things aired in the public arena?*

Cr Brian McLachlan believed that they should focus on debt and it should be where we say it is.

Item No. 3, Support Services Group – Report on Recent Activity. (Page 27) (0913hrs)

Alan Adcock under suggestion from Cr Warwick Syers gave some details; it was a snapshot of what goes on in the Support Services area as illustrated on page 32 of the agenda.

Cr Brian McLachlan queried if people will get individual responses to their submissions made rather than generic letters.

Cr Phil Halse commented on emails, explaining that according to their figures, staff were receiving 17 per month per staff member. He reiterated that he receives 17 per day. *That's fine Phil but how many emails received from constituents do you or other councilors actually reply to? Not many, as we along with many others, have experienced.*

Cr Greg Martin had concerns regarding stock on roads at Oakura. He claimed he had received more than 40 calls to himself in regards to this issue and felt there were breakdowns in the system and some of these complaints need to go to council. *Was Greg saying the complaints were not coming through from ENL? With all those phone calls, that's why you too, don't have the time to reply to emails.*

Cr Sharon Morgan asked if the new telephone system soon to be commissioned will aid with recording calls?

Alan Adcock advised that the system will be changed at the call centre. *Does this mean your next call will be answered from the Phillipines? Just like how the letters for rate payments get sent back to - Private Bag 92062, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142; so much for supporting local employment eh?*

Cr Shelley Deeming had a query on dog owners not paying and things could have been followed up on earlier.

Moved: Cr John Williamson, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

Time now at 0919hrs Item No. 4, Delegated Authority. (Page 34)

Moved and Seconded:

There was no further discussion on this item.

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0920hrs that the meeting ends and, thanks all for attending.

Off to the library for a coffee and chat 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](#).