

## Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting – 25th September 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 there were apologies for Cr Brian McLachlan and Mayor Cutforth.

Moved: Cr Sue Glen, seconded by Cr John Williamson.

This next item, below, was showing in the agenda index, 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 28 August 2013. (Page1)

There was a small change to the title of Item No 2 in the minutes and should read 'Financial Report for the Month ending 31 July 2013'.

Moved: Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Seconded: Cr Sharon Morgan.

These were received with no discussion required.

With the time now at 0901hrs, Item No.2. Financial Report for the Month Ending 31 August 2013. (Page 2)

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

Alan Adcock advised there were no trends emerging yet as it was only two months in. He gave details of the Monthly Income Statement informing that the \$867k (Capital Subsidies Page 3) was a timing issue. The outcome was positive for year to date.

On the Monthly Cash Flow Statement (Page 15) showed a positive of \$532K.

Pages 16, 17 and 18 were the new format for the Capital projects Reports.

Note the debt is at \$161.363 million (Page 19).

Alan advised "that the rates paid in advance had brought the debt down; but once we pay the bills the debt will go up again".

In regards to Accounts Receivable, page 21, there was some concern at rate arrears.

Moved: Cr Shelley Deeming, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Cr Crichton Christie had a query on User Fees.

Alan Adcock gave his reply.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a question on the Developer Contribution refunds of \$157K (Page 4)

Alan Adcock explained that if the development didn't go ahead the fees were refunded.

Cr Phil Halse commented on the debt and how some of the media had had articles on it.

Cr Warwick Syers explained that the debt would be \$161million.

Cr Sue Glen had a query on internal borrowing.

Cr Warwick Syers explained it was not debt and that the \$28million will be paid back.

Cr Sue Glen claimed it was confusing and she believed that if you had to pay it back you must have owed it in the first place. *Fair point Sue.*

Cr Merv Williams claimed we could go around and around with this; like you could be saying 'subsidies' are income.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Time was now at 09hrs and on to Item No. 3, Positive Growth Group – Report on Recent Activity. (Page 22)

Cr Warwick Syers asked Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer to speak to this item before it was received and moved by councillors.

Jude Thompson addressed the councillors; (*was she ignoring the public gallery?*) Jude advised they were having ongoing dialogue with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regarding the airport (Page 25). She gave details on Maori Relationships (Page 26).

Jude advised they were also in discussion with the rally people for next year. The refreshed images on the 'Love it Here' billboards were also mentioned. (Page 29)

The recommendation was moved: Cr Phil Halse, Seconded: Cr Aaron Edwards.

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query on the Central City car park and its occupancy rates.

Mike Hibbert, Property & Community Services Manager gave some details.

Cr Crichton Christie queried about how we were going to cope with larger numbers at the airport with these events and is there a plan for further development at the airport.

Jude Thompson advised there had been discussions.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans claimed there had been some drawings done and they were awaiting costings which will come soon.

Cr Warwick Syers advised the meeting "we didn't know the larger planes were coming, they were just dumped on us by Air New Zealand". *Is this a bit like how the Bus Stop at the Hub was dumped on the two main operators by this Council?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked what they were doing about the numbers of unemployed.

Jude Thompson claimed they were talking with businesses in Auckland.

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked if there was anything on the horizon.

Jude Thompson also had a question on page 27 regarding Te Karearea and was this council going to fund the travel.

Cr Merv Williams claimed he was aware of an announcement about retail development outside the CBD and this will affect the CBD; he was waiting on parking incentives for the CBD. He also wondered how the 'bumper sticker' were progressing as they were not on all the council cars.

There was no further discussion on this item.

With the time at 09hrs, Item No. 4. Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor July 2013 for Whangarei. (Page 32+)

Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer gave details of the report which she advised had been purchased from Infometrics. *So much for keeping it Local; it's a Wellington based Company.*

Jude advised it was a very positive report for Whangarei; the refinery and Northport were helping to establish this growth.

Cr Warwick Syers advised a group had yesterday visited the refinery and they were informed that about 300 jobs had been established with the expansion plan and most had been sourced locally.

Moved: Cr John Williamson, Seconded: Cr Merv Williams.

Cr Kahu Sutherland had a query about the number of people who can't get jobs because of drug dependency issues.

There was no further discussion on this item.

Warwick advised that today's meeting had been recorded with both audio and video and had not mentioned it earlier.

Cr John Williamson wished to thank Cr Warwick Syers for the last 3 years; those that come back will be congratulated and commiserations for those that don't return. John commented that Warwick will not be in that chair next term and thanked him.

Cr Warwick Syers advises at 0938hrs 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](#).**