

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting - 27th July 2011

[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 those present.

There were no apologies as it was a 'full turnout'.

Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 22 June. These were received with no discussion required.

Item No. 2. Financial Report for the Eleven Months Ending 30 June 2011 was received with the time still at 0900hrs.

Cr Warwick Syers asked Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock to give a report on the management accounts. He advised there would be some changes before the final accounts. There was a net deficit for the year, approx \$1.6million. He confirmed that arrears are being actively managed.

Cr Warwick Syers informed that Mortgagors will be asked to pay the rates.

Alan Adcock replied that they try not to go there.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queried if the rates review was going to come up.

Cr Warwick Syers wanted the motion carried before added discussion asking Kahu to wait.

Cr Kahu Sutherland continued by stating the rate review was mentioned in the last term and was the review going to take place.

Cr Warwick Syers informed that papers setting out the steps did come out.

Cr Kahu Sutherland was concerned that Mr Bill Harris who was the most experienced in the rates department has departed council with the restructuring currently being undertaken. *Sadly Kahu, some of the staff they are terminating have very good qualities. Some in the decision making process for restructuring may be better candidates for termination. I have heard of some names and they are fine people; possibly threats to some further up the food chain. Give me a chance and I could name a few that should be 'gone burgers'.*

Alan Adcock advised that he had total confidence in the current manager of that department and he can handle it.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queries 'how can 18 months experience verses 50 odd years be sufficient equal?'

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query in regards (page 12) to the 'coding error' and were the new figures available yet. *This is in relation to a comment made from Phil-in Mayor Halse in the newspaper after Cr Aaron Edwards had repeatedly asked questions in regards to a payment for Mander Park trees. Is 'Coding Error' a name given to an issue that becomes extremely sensitive under scrutiny; that may have really been a bit of B/S given to the stakeholders in the first place?*

CEO Mark Simpson, to his feet, claims "it's No behind closed doors dealing; it's how staff use the funds." *Is this the new born again Mark speaking? Should we really give him a chance, could he really have changed his attitude?*

Group Manager Environment Paul Dell, to the rescue. *(Gee I feel a cover up coming on here, can we baffle councilor Edwards with some of the brown stuff???? Don't think so.)*

Paul continues they recommended the consent process. The option we looked at and presented was to go forward inside the trees and if it's heritage value. It was well publicized. NZTA (New Zealand Transport Authority) could have done minimal in replanting trees. He went to Mark and felt for the long term, it best to put a proposition to Mark, for a major do up of the park. *Now have I said all the things you want to hear? The media are here aren't they?*

Cr Merv Williams had a query (page22) if the outstanding developer contributions were the same ones. *Point of clarification.....outstanding means overdue, not excellent or great.*

Cr Brian McLachlan queried (page 26) 'Proceeds from sale of PPE' (\$1.130mil)
It was confirmed that some was from forestry transactions.

Cr Sharon Morgan wished for some information about leaky home syndrome and were there any cases in progress.

Phil Halse's phone goes off (or was it the 0918hr alarm clock) so guess we look forward to 'choky fish' next meeting. Pigs might fly too.

Sharon Morgan continued in regards to page 18 about scholarship schemes.

CEO Mark Simpson confirmed there was some training through university.

Time at 0919hrs it was Item No. 3. Waipu Tennis Club Loan Request.

Cr Phil Halse gives a little nod to Cr Shelley Deeming. *This is normal when anything in the Bream Bay ward comes up, it's either Phil-in or Shelsie that like to move or second the item.*

Cr Shelley Deeming moves the item and Cr John Williamson seconds it.

The recommendation is passed with no further discussion.

The meeting was over by 0921 hours and Warwick thanked all for attending before the Councillors went into business with the public excluded.

C.1 Confidential Minutes Finance and Support Committee Wednesday 22 June 2011

It was off to the library for a coffee & chat readying oneself for 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](#).