

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 13th April 2011

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all.

Apologies were accepted for Cr John Williamson, who was on a hearing for council and Mayor Morris (180°) Cutforth. *(This meeting obviously fell outside his 2 hour/day allocation)* Cr Kahu Sutherland was noticed by his absence. *(No apology tabled but did it have something to do with the item to be held in the Confidential section C.1. Services Contract?)*

Chair Greg Martin advises that the item, that was to be held in Confidential section C.1. Services Contract was to be withdrawn from the agenda. *(Interesting?)*

At 0901hrs. it was Item No.1. Minutes from the previous meeting and these were passed with no discussion necessary.

Item No. 2. (still 0901hrs) Temporary Road Closure. This was the closure of roads for the Rally New Zealand and required no discussion.

We could well be in for a quick meeting as with the clock still showing 0901hrs it was onto Item No. 3. New Road Name. The chosen name was named after a bird found in abundance in the area. One of the received name options was after someone's pet. Cr Brian McLachlan commented 'he hoped they didn't get shotguns out. *(Assuming that was because of non acceptance of a name?)*

With the clock now racing to 0901hrs it was Item No.4. The Whangarei Districts Preparedness for a Tsunami.

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services, Simon Weston explained it was an awareness program on responses in the event of a tsunami.

Cr Phil Halse queried if they was going to be a mock exercise.

Simon Weston claimed there was group testing annually. The Emergency Response people were to have another event exercise.

Cr Merv Williams mentioned he had recently sat on Plan Change 83. A very comprehensive submission had been received from the NRC on this position. It was fascinating the extent they had gone to and asked us (WDC) to enforce better road routes and intersections in case of tsunami. An example was the intersection of One Tree Point and SH1 as a point people may need to go to. If we have to 'head to the hills'

why are we building on the flat. *We must plan and protect for. (Good comment Merv, why are we still building on low lying areas? We have been warned.)*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans had concerns about the possibility of a tsunami at the Kermedec trench as that only gave limited time, less than 60 minutes. Raul Island had two stations to monitor height of waves but that also gave a 60 minute warning. In the middle of the night it may not be enough warning to prevent a disaster on our shores.

Cr Aaron Edwards requested some clarification on the recommendation.

Simon Weston confirmed it was ongoing work.

Item No. 5. It was now 0908hrs and Transfer Station Fees was the topic on the Agenda.

Cr Warwick Syers moved away from the table, declaring a conflict of interest, when Northland Regional Landfill Limited Partnership was to be mentioned in this item.

(Good call Warwick, but can't find records of 'Northland Regional Landfill Limited Partnership' on the Companies register but you as a director of Whangarei Waste Limited [Click for Details](#))

Cr Greg Martin gave a brief overview.

Simon Weston gave some clarification and the increase in charges was moved by Greg Martin and Cr Aaron Edwards seconded the recommendation. *(Interesting that a 'greenie' Aaron Edwards supports increases in rubbish charges in his attempts to save the planet)*

Cr Merv Williams said it was unfortunate seeing increases in refuse charges disposal but he supported it or they would end up with a huge hole to fill and they had to keep up with the play.

Simon Weston claimed the charges will increase our revenue by \$45,000-00/pa and there was a need to keep the stations manned.

Cr Edwards queried how high the costs would have to go before fly dumping would become an issue and would they be rounding up or down the costs that end in 5cents.

Simon Weston, quick to answer the 5 cent issue with a, 'probably up.'

Cr Sue Glen asked if it was time to give something back like green waste disposal, for the elderly with over 70's stickers, free green waste dumping. *(Careful Sue, that's discrimination)*

Greg Martin suggested someone could use someone's card and continued to substantiate that the total cost had to be met.

It was wake up time, as Jeremy Busck's 'Rooster calling cell phone' breaks the ambiance of the meeting, while he scrambles to put an end to the crows. *(Chocolate Fish Jeremy) [Click for file](#)*

Cr Sue Glen claimed using someone's over 70 card was not an issue.

Cr Sharon Morgan *(oh the rooster woke you)* queried about the availability of wheelie bins for green waste at a cost.

Hello, now Warwick's having a say. *(I thought you were meant to be in the corner with a muzzle on)*

Cr Shelley Deeming commented that there had been recycling programs at rural refuse stations but they had been stopped for some reason. Also donations had been made for some recyclable goods or services in the past.

Simon Weston confirmed they would look into it.

Its again Warwick Syers, *must have broken his chain*, commenting on 'Resort' and its costs to council. *(Surely Mr Chair, Greg Martin, control your disciples, who is chairing this meeting? Remember it was he who declared a 'conflict of interest' and should perhaps leave the chamber if he can't sit quietly observing the proceedings in silence. Not a good precedent. Others (councilors) also, could have claimed a 'point of order' to have the muzzle firmly attached, but is it sometimes hard to teach old dogs new tricks?)*

Cr Aaron Edwards, bringing some serious stuff back to the meeting, questioned if council was licensed to sell second hand goods from recycle.

It was also asked if there could possibly be privacy issues with the recycling of some electronic data equipment.

What we need to remember is when the idea of a landfill and not transporting rubbish to Auckland it was 'sold to us all as being a cost benefit to ratepayers and here we have increases occurring. Is it getting to the stage as should we not believe what they say to push their projects through?

With the meeting back under some control Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 0922hours.

Off to the library for a coffee before the next meeting at 1030hrs

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)