

# SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES

**TITLE:** Special Council  
**DATE:** Tuesday 7 March 2006  
**TIME:** 9.30 am  
**VENUE:** Moutere Hills Recreation Centre, Upper Moutere

**PRESENT:** Mayor J C Hurley (Chair), Crs T B King, M J Higgins, T E Norriss, R G Currie, R G Kempthorne, E E Henry, J L Inglis, P K O'Shea, E J Wilkins, N Riley, S J Borlase, E M O'Regan, S G Bryant

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive (R G Dickinson), Corporate Services Manager (D G Ward), Environment and Planning Manager (D C Bush-King), Community Services Manager (L L Kennedy), Environmental Information Manager (R Smith), Manager Policy (S Markham), Manager Resource Consents (J Hodson), Accounting Manager (M W Staite), Minute Secretary (V M Gribble)

## **1 RECEIPT OF MINUTES**

### **1.1 Special Council Meeting - 23 February 2006**

It was noted that Cr R G Kempthorne was not included as present. Page 4, item 3, Cr Higgins was also on the Subcommittee to consider Community Outcomes.

**Moved Crs Henry/Norriss  
CN06/03/06**

**THAT the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 23 February 2006 containing resolutions numbered CN06/02/06 to CN06/02/18, as amended, be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.  
CARRIED**

### **1.2 Special Council Meeting - 2 March 2006**

Page 5, under water supply areas, it was noted that Takaka should read "Takaka firewells".

Councillors were asked to contact the Engineering Manager with any changes to the maps.

**Moved Crs Norriss/Inglis  
CN06/03/07**

**THAT the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 2 March 2006 containing resolutions numbered CN06/03/01 to CN06/03/05 be confirmed as a true and complete record of the proceedings of that meeting.  
CARRIED**

## 2 REVIEW OF ACTIVITY COSTS YEARS 2 TO 5

Mr Ward spoke to the report that was contained in the agenda which allowed Councillors to consider the general rating impact on the 2007 and 2008 subsequent three years.

Mr Bush-King advised Council how the Environment and Planning budgets are put together.

Cr Higgins asked for justification for the budget allowance for the Regional Policy Statement. He said he has never seen an itemised budget of activities with expected cost against them and never seen a result of policy achieved with what it actually cost against what it was expected to cost.

Mr Bush-King said Regional Policy Statement covers not just administration and maintenance of it, but also has a budget for plan change requests and reviewing effectiveness of plan policies. We have committed to merge the Regional Policy Statement into the Tasman Resource Management Plan. He tabled a list of works on the Resource Policy Programme from 2006/2007 onwards. He noted that project-specific budgets were not listed.

Mr Bush-King said most of the Regional Policy Statement expenditure was overheads last year. Time spent on responding to requests for plan changes gets charged to Regional Policy Statement. The Environment and Planning budget is the regional council budget, and a lot of line items are aggregated. The Regional Policy Statement is \$7,000 of the \$15,000.

Mr Bush-King said for budgeting purposes, plan changes has a budgeted amount of \$13,000 with recovery of \$3,000 per year as an average.

Cr King noted that currently if something was done as a Resource Consent Council would recover 50%.

Mr Markham said with every plan change request received Council needs to decide whether the applicant or Council will pay.

Cr Kempthorne said we have the TRMP which is a significant amount and we need to make sure it is spent wisely and of benefit to ratepayers.

Mr Bush-King noted that the Environment and Planning Committee get financial reports six weekly.

Cr Norriss asked how much staff levels have increased over the years in all departments. He asked about policy reviews and requested a breakdown of costs for the TRMP budget and asked if there was a statutory requirement to review it.

Mr Bush-King said it's not efficient to employ all types of people needed. It would be wrong to say don't employ consultants. There are occasions where we will need to give Council the benefit of consultants advice. He undertook to give indicative costs.

Mr Markham said if we were to put indicative costs it would be staff and overhead costs. Consultant costs would be minimal.

Cr O'Regan is concerned at the level of expenditure on legal expenses. One small plan change can have a huge impact on the budget. He asked for an updated organisational department plan. He believes \$1m budget for the TRMP is beyond what ratepayers expect, but urged Council to exercise discipline.

Cr O'Shea said all Councillors are on the Resource Policy Committee and this discussion should have happened there.

Cr King said it would be useful to see financial breakdown. Projects run concurrently because a number of staff are working on more than one project. Council can't control people who may choose to make submissions and be more or less involved in the process.

Cr Higgins it is only when we see an economic cost that it drives home the implications of decisions we made. He asked what the implications of dropping \$100,000 from the budget would be.

Mr Bush-King said we could delete the allowance for legal fees and come back to the Committee on a case by case basis, and not replace staff as they leave. It would be very tight. He said there is no financial provision for conversion of log fires to comply with Clean Air Regulations.

Mr Kennedy presented the Community Services budgets.

Cr O'Regan asked if consideration had been given to the decline in library book rentals.

Mr Kennedy said we've studied what's happening around the country and the world and a report will be presented when consideration is given to the Takaka library extension. Libraries are becoming more places to meet, study, use internet, read newspapers and while numbers through the door are increasing, but there is a reduction in books being taken out.

Cr King commented on the huge increase in Property.

Mr Ward said the Property budget makes provision for future, but unspecified, property transactions that may be entered into. When we effect a land purchase transaction eg for a sewerage scheme, we charge against that scheme.

Cr Henry asked that Council look closer at the budget and show some explanation that shows greater clarity.

Cr Bryant queried the \$40,000 included for Economic Development.

Mr Ward said Council has made allowance for aspects of Economic Development. There is no commitment to spend it either this year or in 2006/2007.

Mr Dickinson said it has been used in the past for payments to Primary Solutions and the Kahurangi Employment Trust.

Cr O'Shea left the meeting at 11.50 am.

Mr Dickinson said the Customer Services Department has a budget for eight staff plus a manager. The net increase in staffing to Council, after retaining administration in Environment and Planning and Engineering, is four extra. Some of the previous customer service function was performed by engineers, policy planners etc answering phone enquiries and public enquiries. An objective of the one-stop-shop will see 80% of all enquiries handled at the front desk.

Cr O'Regan asked which part of the community is going to get the community assistance and asked what the targeted rate includes.

Mr Staite said the targeted rate includes money Council collects and pays to Motueka and Richmond Business Rates, Mapua stop bank and Rural Property Numbering. Community assistance is where staff spend time servicing Council meetings and it is charged against that.

Cr Norriss asked if there is provision to sell a large part of the Mapua cleaned up area included in the budgets.

Mr Dickinson said as the budget is set, there is no extra revenue shown. Council will need to develop a proposal for the site, in consultation with the Mapua Community Association. Council owes the Ministry for Environment \$900,000 from future Mapua land sales. The way the site is developed will determine the amount of revenue realised.

Cr Higgins said it is not easy to comprehend 10 year increases. An element of inflation is allowed but it is difficult to quantify. There has to be a good reason to justify increases greater than inflation.

**Moved Crs Kempthorne/Henry  
CN06/03/08**

**THAT Departmental activity operating and revenue statements (on pages 2 to 26) with the agreed amendment that the General rate increase for 2007/2008 be 4.8%, be received for inclusion in Council's draft 2006 – 2016 LTCCP, which will be subject to public consultation and submissions.**

**CARRIED**

Cr Henry left the meeting at 12.08 pm

**3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PARKS AND RESERVES ASSET  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mr Ward spoke to the report contained in the agenda and included an Executive Summary of the asset management plan.

Cr Norriss asked who is going to be polled on the Motueka Pool.

Mr Ward said the issue is still to be debated by Council. The current recommendation is to come back following further feasibility work, possibly early April 2006.

Mr Kennedy said one plan has been drawn up and when it was priced Council asked staff to look at the existing school and other options.

**Moved Crs Wilkins/Norriss  
CN06/03/09**

**THAT the Draft Community Facilities Plan and the Parks and Reserves Asset Management Plan be adopted by Council as a public document, subject to the plan being updated to be consistent with the draft LTCCP 2006 – 2016.  
CARRIED**

**4 RATING POLICY ISSUES**

Mr Ward said there was a request of staff to prepare a report on aspects of rating policy and the purpose of this item is for Council to give clear direction on aspects that the report is to cover. The report will be presented in May 2006.

Cr Norriss said the report needs to explore whether Council can set rates on a per dwelling basis and how we could go about it. If we levied rates and charges per dwelling rather than on the area of land, there is no reason that a rural family of four should be paying any more than a family of four in town.

Cr Higgins said it would be helpful if the report went into some depth as to why we have CV rating and the implications of CV rating.

**5 FUTURE FACILITIES**

Mr Kennedy advised Council of the following possible future projects:

- Trafalgar Centre Extension/Upgrade – could start 2006/2007
- Cricket/Athletics Pavilion, Saxton Field – approximately 2009/2010
- Rowing/Water Sports – 2013/2014
- Cycle Track – 2014/2015

Cr O'Regan said projects have to go through a process to get Facilities Rating. We should follow the proper process and leave the things there that we have agreed to and follow the process for things we haven't approved.

Cr King said we know there are a number of projects being promoted. When people read the 10 year plan, they need to see 9 or 10 years out there are projects stacking up and they have to assess the ones currently being promoted in the knowledge that there are more out there. Unless people can see the whole range of projects they can't comment.

Cr Norriss said all projects need to be put in the LTCCP to get feedback from ratepayers.

**5 CONTRACT PARKS AND RESERVES MAINTENANCE**

Cr Higgins asked that Sicon be commended for their success in renegotiating the maintenance contract and the work they do.

**Moved Crs Kempthorne/Norriss  
CN06/03/10**

**THAT the contract for Parks and Reserves Maintenance be offered to Sicon Ltd on a five years plus two years contract basis, and that staff be authorised to finalise this contract.**

**CARRIED**

The meeting concluded at 12.45 pm.

Date Confirmed:

Chair: