

STAFF REPORT

TO: Grants and Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Recreation Advisor
DATE: 12 March 2009
SUBJECT: Pigeon Valley Steam Museum Inc grant request

REASON FOR REPORT

To provide information regarding the request from Pigeon Valley Steam Museum Inc for reallocating the grant to support the Gas Engine project towards the steam pipe system overhaul.

BACKGROUND

The Grants and Community Facilities Rate Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday 23 September 2008 allocated \$3,000.00 to Pigeon Valley Steam Museum Inc towards building a shed for the gas engine. The museum has subsequently written to Tasman District Council on 20 January 2009 to request that the \$3,000.00 granted be reallocated to the work on steam pipe overhaul due to the circumstances explained in the letter.

This can be summarised as what was thought to be a minor maintenance project turning out to require total replacement of the pipe infrastructure. As reserves museum funds were used the proposed Gas Engine project needs to be deferred. I met with Alan Palmer on 24 February to discuss the situation and clarify the request.

DISCUSSION

Tasman District Council has enjoyed a long and positive relationship with the museum. The museum is run with the support of a large pool of volunteers who have developed the museum into a major attraction for the region. The museum, in the interests of public safety, was obligated to undertake work required or cease to operate the machinery powered by the steam pipes.

The museum did, in good faith at the time of the application being forwarded to Tasman District Council in August 2008, intend to carry out the construction of the shed for the gas engine. Circumstances, as outlined, meant that the priorities for this have changed and the urgent steam pipe work had to be carried out.

I have asked the Pigeon Valley Steam Museum Inc to forward a Grants form Rates application for the steam pipe project to be forwarded to the committee and hope to get a copy of this to you prior to Thursday 19 March.

OPTIONS

1. Reject the request and ask that the \$3,000.00 grant be returned.
2. Accept the request for reallocation of the \$3,000.00 grant from the Gas Engine Shed project to the steam pipe overhaul.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Subcommittee accepts the request for reallocation of the \$3,000.00 grant from the gas engine shed project to the steam pipe overhaul, conditional on the formal withdrawal of the original application and the Subcommittee acceptance of an updated application for the steam pipe project.

Mike Tasman-Jones

Community and Recreation Advisor

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