

MINUTES of a Special Meeting of the Council held in
the Council Chambers at the Shire Administration
Office – Prinsep Street Norseman on the 24th July
2015 commencing at 6.00pm

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1 Declaration of Opening and Announcement of Visitors.

The Shire President welcomed all in attendance and declared the meeting open at 6.13pm

1.1 Attendance at the meeting of by Councillors C South and S Conklin.

The Chief Executive Officer has been advised that Cr South was at the Southern Hills Pastoral Station, Western Australia and Cr Conklin was at Eucla when the meeting was held and requested attendance by way of instantaneous telephone connection with other Councillors present at the meeting in accordance with Administration Regulation 14A.

Council must approve of the place that Cr's South and Conklin are located as a "suitable place" that must be in a town site or other residential areas at least 150 kilometres from where the meeting is being held.

Recommendation

That Cr C South and Cr S Conklin be permitted to attend this meeting by way of instantaneous telephone connection from Southern Hills Pastoral Station Western Australia and Eucla respectively on the basis that they are in a "suitable place" for the purposes of Administration Regulation 14A

Moved Cr: L Webb
Seconded Cr: YH Vicensoni

Resolution

That Cr C South and Cr S Conklin be permitted to attend this meeting by way of instantaneous telephone connection from Southern Hills Pastoral Station Western Australia and Eucla respectively on the basis that they are in a "suitable place" for the purposes of Administration Regulation 14A

Carried by: Simple Majority For: 4 Against 0

Cr C South and Cr S Conklin joined the meeting by telephone at 6.14pm

2. Declaration of Financial, Proximity and Impartial Interests

Financial Interests:

Nil

Proximity Interests:

Nil

Impartiality Interests:

Nil

3 Record of Attendance of Councillors / Officers and Apologies.

Cr J Best Shire President

Cr S Conklin Deputy Shire President
 Cr JEP Hogan
 Cr C South
 Cr YH Vicensoni
 Cr L Webb

Richard Brookes Chief Executive Officer
 Doug Stead Deputy Chief Executive Officer

4 Application for Leave of Absence.

Nil

5 Public Question Time.

Nil

6 Petitions, Deputations or Presentations.

Nil

7 Announcements by Presiding Member without Discussion.

Nil

8 Reports of Officers.

8.1 Reports Relating to the Purpose of the Special Meeting

Agenda Reference & Subject	
8.1.1 –Draft Budget for 2015/16	
Location / Address	Shire of Dundas
File Reference	FM.BU 15.16
Author	Doug Stead DCEO
Date of Report	17 th July 2015
Disclosure of Interest	Nil

Summary

For the Council to consider and adopt the 2015/16 draft budget as shown in the papers relating.

Background

The Minister for Local Government has now given his approval to the Shire's application to impose differential levies in 2015/16. Council is now in a position to approve the budget for 2015/16.

Staff have prepared a balanced budget to reflect the Corporate Business Plan and its associated strategic planning documents, the Plant Replacement Program and the Council's resolutions and discussions over the past 12 months.

The dominant features of the budget are the upgrading of the Norseman Airstrip, the acquisition and upgrading of the Camel Café and the building of a new residence for the doctor. These three projects are mainly funded by loan borrowings over a 10 year period as well as transfers from reserves to fund acquisition costs. Shire management has prepared and submitted grant applications to the GEDC and NSRF for funding for the airstrip upgrade which if successful relieves the Shire from raising loans for

the project. However, the budget reflects the interest and capital costs associated with the funds borrowed.

Members will be aware that an initial draft of capital expenditure and projects was discussed earlier in the year enabling councillors to go through the draft with shire staff.

Although at the time of preparing this report we had not yet received written approval from the Minister on our differential rating application we have been advised that the department is satisfied with the validity of the request. Approval of the differential rates is still being awaited and Council will not be in a position to pass this budget until such approval is received...

Statutory Environment

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires that a local government is to adopt a budget by the 31st August unless extended by the Minister.

Policy Implications

Council policies have been considered whilst formulating the 2015/16 draft document.

Financial Implications

The budget formulates the income and expenditure program for both operating and capital works for the Shire of Dundas for the next 12 months.

Strategic Implications

The Council's Strategic Community Plan, Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan have been considered in formulating the 2015/16 draft document to ensure strategic directions are being reflected.

Consultation

Councillors, Chief Executive Officers, Manager of Works, Project Manager and Senior Administrative Officer.

Comment

Expenditure levels have been set at expected costs, however income levels have been set conservatively. There may be opportunity at the Budget Review in early 2016 to consider additional projects with other funding opportunities should they become available.

Some comment in relation to each schedule is set out below for Council information:

GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDING

The rating model approved by Council is in line with the CPI as at 30th March 2015. Reflecting an increase in rates of 3%. A minor alteration was made to the UV Prospecting lease rates in order to bring it into line with the other UV Leases.

The Grants Commission has again reverted to paying the majority of their grants "in advance" and this is reflected in the surplus carried forward from 2014/15 year.

GOVERNANCE

Provision has been made for a consultant on tourism possibilities while salaries include the remuneration of our newly appointed Community Development Officer. The budget includes a non-specific amount of \$75,000 to cover potential projects in this regard.

Our computer systems are in need of an upgrade and an amount of \$50,000 has been allocated to new servers and other hardware. Funds have also been set aside for upgrading the air conditioning in Council Chambers.

LAW, ORDER & PUBLIC SAFETY

There are no significant projects planned for 2015/16.

HEALTH

The air conditioning in the doctor's house needs replacing and \$40,000 has been allocated to this project.

EDUCATION & WELFARE

The Youth Officer's vehicle is due for replacement and suitable provision has been made for this.

HOUSING

Necessary upgrades have been planned for staff housing with the major expense being the re-stumping and other work at 36 Angove Street.

Provision of \$700,000 has been made for a new residence for the doctor

COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Provision has been made for the expansion of the refuse site at Eucla, as well as an additional liquid waste drying bed in Norseman. Design work for improving drainage in Roberts and Prinsep Street has been provided for.

RECREATION & CULTURE

Funds have been allocated to complete the projects at the Town Hall and for realigning the car park. The Men in Sheds will receive 3 phase power and landscaping has been proposed for the area between Dodd House and the DCP Building.

Improvements have been planned for Phoenix Park and the Sports Complex will have security windows installed improved seating and a toilet upgrade have been planned for the museum complex.

TRANSPORT

Funding from the Grants Commission has been received in advance and this is reflected in our surplus ex 2015/15. Expenditure on road maintenance is static with last year Roads to Recovery have granted Shires a special "one-off" payment of \$204,000 for general road work in addition to their normal funding.

Expenditure on the Hyden Road is down on 14/15 and is in line with the reduced funding from Regional Roads group. Funding for Black Spot has increased with a large project planned for the Roberts to Old Eyre highway. Spending on footpaths has been allocated to sections of Morgan – Ramsay and Alsop – Crampton where asphalt is being replaced by concrete.

The Income and Expenditure for the airport sets out the full anticipated receipts and payments for the project which will run over into future years.

ECONOMIC SERVICES

Projects here include the acquisition and upgrade of the Camel Café, the northern Information Bay and the design and construction of 4 entry statements.

OTHER PROPERTY & SERVICES

Public works overheads have been calculated and allocated to works.

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Officer Recommendation

That the Council approve by an absolute majority the adoption of:

1. The 2015/16 draft budget as shown in the papers relating;
2. The differential rates in the dollar and minimum rate for all categories as shown in the papers relating;
3. The total valuations as supplied by the Valuer General being GRV \$5,155,940 and UV of \$ 9,090,898;
4. The early rates payment incentive scheme be offered consisting of three cash payments to the value of \$750, \$500 and \$250 for the first, second and third respectively, with prizes to be allocated by a draw to be held one week after the closing date that rates are due. To be eligible the ratepayer must make payment within 14 days of the date of services as shown on the 2015/16 rate notice;
5. The due dates for payment of rates to be set at 35 days from date of issue, also with the option of payment by the four equal instalments in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995;
6. The due dates for equal instalments be the 7th September 2015, 10th November 2015, 8th February 2016 and the 26th April 2016.;
7. The interest charges on overdue rates and other monies be charged at 7.5% pa;
8. The charge to apply for rate instalment plans be set at \$7.00 for each of the final three instalments with the interest rate set at 5.5% for each of the final three instalments;
9. The Reserve Fund budget as shown in the papers relating;
10. The refuse collection charges be set at \$170 per domestic service, \$130 per pensioner service, \$200 per commercial service and \$170 per light industrial service;
11. The Schedule of Fees and Charges as shown in the papers relating;
12. That the variance used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with Financial regulation 34 (5) be set at 10% or \$5,000.

Moved Cr: L Webb
Seconded Cr: YH Vicensoni

Resolution

That the Council approve by an absolute majority the adoption of:

1. The 2015/16 draft budget as shown in the papers relating;
2. The differential rates in the dollar and minimum rate for all categories as shown in the papers relating;
3. The total valuations as supplied by the Valuer General being GRV \$5,155,940 and UV of \$ 9,090,898;
4. The early rates payment incentive scheme be offered consisting of three cash payments to the value of \$750, \$500 and \$250 for the first, second and third respectively, with prizes to be allocated by a draw to be held one week after the closing date that rates are due. To be eligible the ratepayer must make payment within 14 days of the date of services as shown on the 2015/16 rate notice;
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6. The due dates for equal instalments be the 7th September 2015, 10th November 2015, 8th February 2016 and the 26th April 2016.;
7. The interest charges on overdue rates and other monies be charged at 7.5% pa;
8. The charge to apply for rate instalment plans be set at \$7.00 for each of the final three instalments with the interest rate set at 5.5% for each of the final three instalments;
9. The Reserve Fund budget as shown in the papers relating;

10. The refuse collection charges be set at \$170 per domestic service, \$130 per pensioner service, \$200 per commercial service and \$170 per light industrial service;
11. The Schedule of Fees and Charges as shown in the papers relating;
12. That the variance used in the Statement of Financial Activity in accordance with Financial regulation 34 (5) be set at 10% or \$5,000.

Carried by: Absolute Majority

For: 6

Against 6

9 Closure of Meeting

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6.23