

Minutes of Budget Meeting of Monaghan County Council held on Wednesday 19th December, 2012 at 2.30 pm in the Council Chamber, M-Tek 1 Building, Knockaconny, Monaghan

Chair: Cllr H. McElvaney, Mayor.

Present: Cllrs Bennett, Bannigan, Carthy, Conlon, Connolly, Coyle, Crowe, Gallagher, Keelan, Maxwell, B. McKenna, McNally, McPhillips, Murray, O'Hanlon, P. Treanor and S. Treanor.

Apology: Cllrs O'Brien and Carville

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. D. Treanor, Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McNally, Management Accountant and Ms. L. Brannigan, Asst Staff Officer.

The Mayor apologised to the members for rescheduling the meeting to facilitate his attendance at the funeral of former County Manager Paddy Lavin, that morning. He paid tribute to Mr. Lavin, describing him as "a people's man, very down to earth and easy to get on with". On behalf of the members he wished to offer sympathy to Mr. Lavin's wife and family.

The County Manager expressed his sympathy and that of the staff as did Cllr. McNally.

A minutes silence was observed.

Budget 2013

The Mayor invited the Head of Finance, John Murray to present the draft Budget as prepared by the Corporate Policy Group.

Mr. Murray stated that the draft budget meetings were based on an expected 8% reduction in the Local Government Fund. However after the last CPG meeting he was informed by the Department that the Local Government Fund allocation for 2013 would be increased by 0.56%.

He stated that as a result the CPG met immediately prior to this meeting and recommended that €400,000 be set aside from the Budget as presented and held in capital account. The draft Budget as presented would be amended by:

- Reducing Expenditure on Loan Charges Water Services by €100,000
- Reducing Expenditure on Historic Landfills Cleanup by €100,000
- Reducing Expenditure on Landfill Operation by €20,000
- Increasing Income from Miscellaneous Income Water Services by €100,000
- Increasing Income from Sludge And Leachate Income by €80,000

The Head of Finance then answered questions from members on each division of the Budget. The Mayor excused himself and left the chamber during the discussion on Division E – Waste Management and this portion of the debate was chaired by the Leas-Meara, Cllr, Keelan.

During the debate on all divisions of the budget the following motions were proposed and agreed:

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council seek of the Department of Environment financial supports required for the installation of an Integrated Constructed Wetlands at the landfill facility at Scotch Corner.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr B. McKenna, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council write to the Department of Environment and express deep concern that the River Basin Management Advisory Council's have not met in recent years and call on the Minister to ensure that these advisory Councils begin meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Carthy, seconded by Cllr McNally, it was agreed (1) that savings relating to landfill cost is 2012 be capitalised to address closure costs that may arise over the coming years; (2) that savings relating to landfill expenditure and any unbudgeted income in 2013 be capitalised for the same purpose.

On the proposal of Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr Gallagher, it was agreed that Monaghan County Council make a list of most dangerous junctions throughout the County and make them safe over a period of years.

On the proposal of Cllr McKenna, seconded by Cllr Keelan, it was agreed following a vote by show of hands, resulting in 11 for 7 against, that the figure of €94,000 for attendance of members at conferences be allocated pro-rata between the 20 elected members.

The members discussed the issue of rates and the valuation system.

It was proposed by Cllr O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. McNally that the system of rate collection be changed from valuation of property to means of income similar to the system used for local authority house rentals.

Following a vote, the motion was defeated with 7 in favour and 8 votes against

Adoption of Draft Budget 2012:

On the proposal of Cllr Maxwell seconded by Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that the Council adopt the draft Budget for 2013, as presented.

Determination of Annual Rate on Valuation:

On the proposal of Cllr Bannigan, seconded by Cllr Carthy, it was agreed, that the general Annual Rate on Valuation for 2013 of 56.20 and town charges rate of 9.50 for Ballybay Town be adopted.

The Mayor thanked the Acting County Manager, the members of the Corporate Policy Group, the Head of Finance and all the staff who contributed to the preparation of the draft budget.

Mr. D. Fallon, Acting County Manager thanked the Mayor and members.

The Mayor wished all present a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

The meeting then concluded.