

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Mtek Building, Armagh Road, Monaghan on ~~Monday~~ Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

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**Chair:** Cllr J. Crowe, Mayor.

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

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager, Mr. P. Clifford, Mr. A. King, Directors of Service, Mr. J. Murray, Head of Finance, Mr. J. McGrath, Senior Engineer, Ms. N. Woods, SEO Housing Mr. N. O'Connor, Environment Awareness Officer, Mr. L. Bradley, Museum Curator and Ms. C. Thornton, Meetings Administrator.

**Apology:** Cllrs McElvaney and O'Brien.

At the outset, Cllr Murray proposed a vote of sympathy with the Fitzgerald family on the death of Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, former Taoiseach and also to the Fine Gael Party. Cllr Bannigan seconded the proposal which was agreed unanimously.

The Mayor and a number of members paid tribute to the late Dr. Fitzgerald and described him as a great leader, a man of outstanding intellect and integrity and a true Irish man. The A/County Manager associated himself with the vote of sympathy on behalf of the staff.

The vote of sympathy was passed in silence, all present standing, following which the Mayor adjourned the meeting for five minutes as a mark of respect.

**1. To consider additional road allocation:**

The Mayor explained that he had been requested by the Carrickmacross Electoral Area members (by way of signed notice) to convene a special meeting of the Council to discuss the distribution of additional roads funding that had been made available by the Department of Transport.

Cllr Carthy, on behalf of the Carrickmacross Members thanked the Mayor and the Councillors for agreeing to the Special Meeting.

The Mayor invited the County Manager and the Roads Engineers to outline the position in relation to the additional funding.

Mr. D. Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the additional funding of €2,023,418 was welcomed. The Council needs continued investment in the roads programme as local funding is not sufficient to maintain the regional and local road network. Funding is required at the same level as that allocated in 2007 otherwise roads will deteriorate significantly.

Mr. John McGrath, Senior Engineer outlined the process involved in preparing and submitting the roads programme to the Department. He stated that the Roads Section, following consultation with the Members at road area meetings, prepare a draft list of roads to be repaired over a three year period for each electoral area. The lists from each of the four areas are meshed together into a single list -and the final programme is submitted to the Department. The breakdown of the additional funding between the four areas is as follows, as per the Department allocation:

Clones	€94,630
North Monaghan	€80,408
Carrickmacross	€62,490
Castleblayney	€85,890

If the funding were to be divided between the four areas on the basis of road mileage per area, then the funding would be allocated between the areas as follows –

Clones	€62,610
North Monaghan	€50,370
Carrickmacross	€49,667
Castleblayney	€42,871

The Department specify that 15% of the allocation must go towards regional road improvement.

Whilst all members welcomed the additional funding allocation, there was no agreement as to whether the funding should be spent, as per the Department allocation or on a road mileage/area basis. A lengthy debate followed during which the following proposals were made -

*Cllr Carthy proposed, Cllr Murray seconded that the Council prepare a revised road programme based on the criteria normally used (ie 15% off top allocation towards regional road maintenance and the balance divided per area/road mileage) and that road area meetings be arranged as soon as possible to finalise the matter.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 12 for 6 against. The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

*Cllr Treanor proposed, Cllr Coyle seconded that the Council write to the Department of Transport seeking a further allocation to bring all areas up to an equal level of funding.*

A vote by show of hands resulted in 6 for, 8 against, 4 abstentions. The Mayor declared the proposal defeated.

*Cllr Conlon proposed, Cllr Keelan seconded that this local authority welcomes the additional allocation of €2m and that it implores the*

*Department of Transport to give positive consideration to a further allocation for much needed road repairs over the remaining course of the year.*

The Mayor put Cllr Conlon's proposal to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously.

*Cllr Bannigan proposed, Cllr P. Treanor seconded that 15% is taken off the top of the additional allocation to be spent on regional roads and that the balance is allocated to local roads between the four areas on a road mileage basis.*

In view of the result of the vote on Cllr Carthy's proposal, Cllr Bannigan's proposal was not put to the meeting.

### **Road Area Meetings:**

The following dates were agreed for road area meetings –

<b>Carrickmacross</b>	31 May 2011 at 9.30 a.m.
<b>Castleblayney</b>	1 June 2011 at 10.30 a.m.
<b>Clones</b>	1 June 2011 at 2.00 p.m.
<b>Monaghan</b>	26 May, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

### **EirGrid:**

At the request of Cllr Bannigan, it was agreed that the Chief Executive of EirGrid or the Chairperson of the Board of EirGrid be invited to the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.

### **Meeting with Minister for Health:**

The Meetings Administrator notified the Council that the Minister for Health had agreed to receive a joint deputation from Monaghan County Council and Monaghan Town Council on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 at 10.30 a.m. in Leinster House. The Minister's Office has stated that the Council may nominate ~~3~~ three members to ~~attend-represent it at the meeting~~ the deputation.

It was agreed that the following members represent the Council at the meeting – Cllrs B. McKenna, D. Maxwell and S. Coyle. It was further agreed that the Meetings Administrator would request two extra places to allow the Mayor and a representative from the Independent members attend.

This concluded the business of the meeting.