

COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Statutory Budget Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 17th December 2012 at 5.00p.m.in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, No. 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Seamus Treanor

Present: Cllrs Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, David Maxwell, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

In Attendance: David Fallon, Acting County Manager, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Mary Hughes, Staff Officer.

David Fallon, Acting County Manager informed the Members that confirmation has now been received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government stating that Local Government Fund for 2013 has been decreased by 5% on 2012 – allocation for 2013 is €787,065. It was noted that the draft budget presented to the Members shows a decrease in the Local Government fund of 7% which now makes a sum of €16,570 available. The Members noted that they can now either increase expenditure by €16,570 or decrease the annual rate on valuation. The Members noted the Acting County Manger’s report dated 6th December 2012 and the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meetings held on 27th November 2012 and 4th December 2012 together with the following documentation:-

- Circular Fin 13/2012 dated 6th December 2012 setting out the Local Government Fund General Purpose Grant Allocation 2013.
- Circular Fin 12/2012 dated 9th November 2012 regarding 2013 Budget Meetings and related matters.
- Copy of public notice dated 6th December 2012.
- Letter dated 27th November 2012 from the Administrator of the Garage Theatre seeking a draw down of the balance of the allocated grant for 2012.
- Letter dated 23rd October 2012 from Monaghan County Council regarding Monaghan Leisure Complex.
- Letter dated 26th October 2012 from Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Community Development Ltd regarding Mullaghmatt/Cortolvin Youth Café.
- Letter dated 15th November 2012 from the Cavan/Monaghan Down Syndrome Association.
- Letter dated 10th November 2012 on behalf of the Monaghan Training Workshop, St Davnets Complex.
- Notification from the AMAI setting out the Annual Subscriptions for 2013
- Details of payments to the Garage Theatre.
- Details of monies received from Monaghan County Council in respect of NPPR.

The Members examined the Draft Budget 2013 in detail, programme by programme and noted the following main points in relation to same:-

Division A – Housing and Building.

The Members noted that expenditure under this heading amounts to €789,251 and income to €978,355. A planned maintenance programme for the councils existing housing stock in the sum of €60,000 will be carried out in 2013 which includes the installation of carbon monoxide monitors, installation of kitchens, boundary treatment and external painting of old persons dwellings. It was noted that the pre-letting repairs to dwellings is estimated at €35,000. This expenditure of €95,000 will be provided from the Town Councils Internal Capital receipts.

David Fallon, A/County Manager informed the Members that Local Authorities are not exempt from paying the local property tax and that it is his understanding that the Local Authority will pay the tax and pass it on to the tenants by adding it to their weekly rent.

The Members expressed disappointment that no funding has been made available for the construction of dwellings.

It was noted that the Council have a legal requirement when a dwelling is being re-let to get a BER Rating carried out. Jonathon Condell, Assistant Engineer explained that a BER is not just based on insulation but on other factors such as the layout of a dwelling. The Members were informed that a significant number of Council dwellings have at this stage being insulated, double glazed, oil fired central heating installed and wall insulation carried out.

The Members expressed the opinion that no transfer of tenancy should take place if there are issues surrounding the tenants existing tenancy, e.g. damage, etc.

Division B – Road Transport and Safety.

The Members noted that expenditure under this heading amounts to €976,909 and income to €837,300. Provision has been made in this division for the running/administrative cost of pay parking at €403,638 and income from pay parking has been estimated at €640,000. The Members welcomed the initiative to have free parking in the town in the run-up to Christmas from Monday 17th December to Thursday 27th December 2012 inclusive from 12 noon each day in the public car parks and on-street. The Council will continue with its road and footpath improvements in 2012 with the assistance of the Road Grant from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Cllr. Conlon suggested that some of the funds raised from pay parking be used to purchase land for housing similar to the vision shown by the UDC Members in the 1970's when they purchased O' Neill's Farm.

Division C – Water Services

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €1,350,483 and income to €550. The expenditure includes costs associated with the water supply and waste water treatment plants/networks and the up-keep and maintenance of the automatic public convenience located at the rear of the Courthouse.

It was noted that the operation and maintenance of the public convenience includes a 25% reduction in the maintenance charge on 2012.

Division D – Development Management

The Members noted that the expenditure under this division amounts to €132,074 and income to €23,372. It was noted that €3,500 has been provided for the St. Patrick's Day Parade which will be paid from the Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Dividend of €26,736 received and capitalized in 2012. It was also noted that €1,000 has been provided for "The Gathering". Planning fees income is estimated at €18,225 for 2013.

Division E – Environmental Services

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €311,231 and income to €2,350. The estimated cost of operating street cleaning services in 2013 is €260,247. The Members expressed outrage at the cost of street cleaning in the town. It was noted that a lot of the littering problems are taking place outside the normal working hours of the staff. Cllr. Paul McGeown expressed the view that takeaway premises should exercise more responsibility in cleaning up outside their premises. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Thomas Hagan it was agreed that the Budget Sub-Committee meet to see if a practical solution could be reached on the deployment of Litter Wardens at additional times.

The Members noted that €10,000 has been provided to the Monaghan Tidy Towns Committee and €1,500 to the Water Safety Association.

Division F – Recreation and Amenity

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €552,636 and income to €25,336. The expenditure includes Leisure Centre loan repayments of €108,000 and swimming pool costs of €35,663 which includes rates, insurance and the maintenance and replacement of gym equipment and the carrying out of further accessibility works at the leisure centre. €10,000 has also been provided towards the over expenditure associated with the construction of the Leisure Centre which will be transferred to the Capital account.

The Members noted that €13,000 has been provided for contributions to local voluntary/community groups and that €5,500 has been provided to the Neighbourhood Youth Project for the Halloween festivities, €400 to the Monaghan Immigrant Support Group and €1,400 to the Monaghan Sub Aqua Club. The Members also noted that €1,500 has been provided as a contribution towards the Mullaghmat/Cortolvin Youth Café.

The Members agreed to provide €23,000 for town events which will be paid from the IPBMI dividend of €26,736 which will be capitalized at the end of 2012 and it was agreed to provide €10,000 to the Monaghan Harvest Time Blues Festival.

It was noted that €5,000 has been provided towards the running costs of the Garage Theatre. Cllr Seán Conlon proposed that €16,570 be provided as additional expenditure to the Garage Theatre to bring the total to €21,570 for 2013. Cllr Robbie Gallagher proposed and it was agreed that the Budget meeting be adjourned to allow the Budget Sub-Committee consider Cllr Conlon's proposal.

Following the Budget Sub-Committee meeting the Members agreed with the Budget Sub-Committees recommendation – to increase the contribution to the Garage Theatre by €5,000 – total for 2013 = €10,000 and the balance of €11,570 to be put towards community based projects which will be agreed at a future meeting of the Town Council.

The Members agreed with the Budget Sub-Committees recommendation to make a contribution of €400 to the Monaghan Training Workshop, St. Davnet’s Hospital.

Division H – Miscellaneous Services

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €956,113 and income to €180,290. The Members noted the cost of rate collection and Members expenses are included under this heading. The Members noted that the budget provides for €30,000 as income from Monaghan County Council for the rental of a section of the Town Council headquarters outdoor facility at Rooskey. The Members agreed to transfer €26,181 to the Capital Account in respect of the construction costs associated with the new machinery yard. It was also agreed to transfer €20,000 to the Capital Account in respect of costs associated with the purchase/replacement of items of machinery over the last number of years.

The Members noted that €500 has been provided for the Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committees “Don’t pour your dreams away” campaign which is run in conjunction with the Junior Certificate results.

€118,920 has been provided in the Budget from the NPPR monies. €100,000 of this income will be paid to County Monaghan VEC towards the construction of the new Garage Theatre at Knockaconny.

Central Management Charge

The Members noted the cost of salaries, wages, health and safety, insurances, etc are included under this heading and are apportioned across the other divisions.

Adoption of Budget and Determination of Rate

The following figures were noted in relation to the overall draft budget taking into account the amendments made by the Members:-

Gross revenue expenditure - €5,085,268
County Demand - €1,104,206
Total Gross Revenue Expenditure - €6,189,474
Total Revenue Income - €2,047,553
Net Expenditure - €4,141,921
Local Government Fund Allocation - €787,065
Amount to be levied - €3,354,856
Nett effective valuation - €46,592
General Rate in Valuation - €72.00

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr Donal Sherry it was agreed to adopt the draft budget as amended.

On the proposal of Cllr Donal Sherry seconded by Cllr Thomas Hagan it was agreed to approve the rate on valuation of 72.00 to be levied for the year 2013.

The Members noted that the Budget, as adopted will be reinstated in accordance with the costing system from the Department and will be forwarded to the Members. The Members commended the work carried out by the Town Council Budget Sub-Committee in the preparation of the 2013 budget.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Dated this the 21st day of January 2013

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach