

**COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHAIN  
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of Annual Statutory Budget Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 4.30p.m. in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. David Maxwell

PRESENT: Cllrs. Mary Carroll, Seán Conlon, Robbie Gallagher, Thomas Hagan, Paul McGeown, Donal Sherry, Seamus Treanor and Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha.

IN ATTENDANCE: David Fallon, A/County Manager, Gareth McMahon, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Mary Hughes, Staff Officer.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. David Maxwell thanked the Members of the Budget Sub-Committee and the Executive for their work on the preparation of the Draft Budget 2012 and stated that a Budget is being presented to the Members with no increase in Municipal Rates and all of the services being maintained.

David Fallon, A/County Manager informed the Members that confirmation has been received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government stating that the Local Government Fund for 2012 has been decreased to €28,489, a reduction of 8.98% on €10,206 paid from the Local Government Fund in 2011. In reply to a question from Cllr. Seán Conlon, David Fallon, A/County Manager stated that the Local Government Fund is made up of motor tax income and exchequer receipts but that from 2013 the Local Government Fund will consist of receipts from motor tax and the new household charge which is being introduced from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. Cllr. Seán Conlon condemned the charge of €100 which will be levied on all households.

The Members noted the Acting County Managers report dated the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and the Minutes of the Budget Sub-Committee meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 together with the following documentation:-

- Circular Fin 06/2011 from the Department of Finance regarding Local Authority 2012 Budget Meetings.
- Copy of Public Notice dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- Circular Fin 8/2011 from the Department of Finance regarding the LGF General Purpose Grant Allocation 2012.
- Monaghan Tidy Towns Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011
- St. Patricks Day Parade Income and Expenditure Statement 2011
- Email from Somhairle MacConghail, Arts Officer, Monaghan County Council regarding the Harvest Time Blues Festival 2012.
- Letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from the Administrator of the Garage Theatre regarding funding for 2012.
- Letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 from Monaghan County Council regarding improvement works to be carried out to Monaghan Leisure Centre.

- Letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce regarding a request for a draw down of funding of €5,000 to facilitate the event associated with the switching on of the Christmas Lights in the town.
- Submission dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 from the Monaghan Chamber of Commerce for financial support for 2012.
- Financial Statement from Monaghan Chamber of Commerce in connection with the Taste of Monaghan Festival 2011.

The Members examined the Draft Budget 2012 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 €756,628 and income to €935,200. A planned maintenance programme for the Councils existing housing stock in the sum of €35,000 will be carried out in 2012. It was noted that the Town Council purchased one dwelling at Kilnacloy in 2011 and that extensive works were carried out to dwellings during the year in an effort to avoid freezing pipes in the future.

#### **Division B – Road Transport and Safety**

The Members noted that expenditure under this heading amounts to €1,016,085 and income to €860,435. Provision has been made in this division for the running/ administrative costs of pay parking at €115,740 and income at pay parking has been estimated at €51,135. The Members noted that provision has been made in the 2012 Draft Budget for the purchase of 2 additional pay parking machines. 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.

#### **Division C – Water Services.**

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €1,357,420 and income to €600. The expenditure includes costs associated with the water supply and waste water treatment plants/networks and the upkeep and maintenance of the automatic public convenience located at the rear of the Courthouse.

#### **Division D – Development Management**

The Members noted that expenditure under this division amounts to €41,805 and income to €6,000. Cllr. Seán Conlon referred to Tourism Ireland which has launched details of its marketing plans to promote the Island of Ireland overseas in 2012 and beyond which will welcome over 9m visitors to Ireland by 2015. Cllr. Conlon stated that Tourism Ireland in 2012 will promote “The Gathering 2013” to the 70m people across the world who are linked with Ireland. Cllr. Conlon called on the Town Council to take the preparatory steps required to enable it to participate fully in the initiative and to work with the County Council in this regard. It was noted under this heading that the organisers of the Rossmore 10K walk/run did not drawdown the €1,700 allocated to them in 2011 and it was agreed by the Members that this allocation provided in Budget 2011 be transferred to the Capital Account to promote tourism.

On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to provide €1,000 to Town Twinning under this division. On the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to increase the planning fees income by €1,000 to €6,000.

The Members noted that the draft budget includes €4,000 for the project management and administration costs associated with the North East Broadband Project Phase 1 Scheme.

#### **Division E – Environmental Services**

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €340,177 and income to €3,127. The estimated cost of operating street cleaning services in 2012 is €252,550. €15,000 has been provided to the Monaghan Tidy Towns Committee and €1,500 to the Water Safety Association. €4,000 has also been provided in the Budget towards the clean-up of the Canal at the rear of the Mall Road which the Members have nominated as a project in RTE's second series of the programme Dirty Old Towns.

#### **Division F – Recreation and Amenity**

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €45,804 and income to €4,125. The expenditure includes Leisure Centre loan repayments of €108,000 and swimming pool costs of €3,085 which includes rates, insurance and works to be carried out to the Leisure Centre including Green Technologies and superior disabled access which has been partly funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. €10,000 has also been provided towards the over-expenditure associated with the construction of the Leisure Centre. It was noted that this amount will be transferred to the Capital Account.

The Members noted that €15,000 has been provided for contributions to local voluntary/community groups, €6,000 has been provided to the Neighbourhood Youth Project for the Halloween festivities in the town, €500 to the Monaghan Immigrant Support Group and €1,500 to the Monaghan Sub-Aqua Club.

The Members noted that provision has also been made for €13,000 to the Monaghan Harvest Time Blues Festival and €23,000 to the Monaghan Chamber of Commerce to support initiatives towards bringing people into Monaghan town.

The Members requested the Town Engineer to explore the provision of a cover for the Bandstand located in The Diamond so that the stand may be used in adverse weather conditions.

#### **Division H – Miscellaneous Services**

Expenditure under this heading amounts to €70,663 and income to €62,990. The Members noted that the cost of rate collection and Members expenses are included under this heading. Provision is also made to cover the cost of bank charges and irrecoverable rates/rents. The Members noted that €20,000 is to be transferred to the Capital Account in respect of the construction costs associated with the new Machinery Yard for the Outdoor staff. Provision is made under this heading in the sum of €40,000 in respect of the costs associated with the purchase of items of machinery in 2009. The costs of these items will be paid off over a number of years to clear the Capital Account.

The Members noted that €1,000 has been provided for Monaghan Town Council's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that the same amount has been provided for the Monaghan Town Joint Policing Committee's "Don't Pour Your Dreams Away" Campaign which is run in conjunction with the Junior Certificate Results.

The Members noted that the Budget provides for €15,000 as income from Monaghan County Council for the half-year rental of a section of the Town Council's Headquarters Outdoor facility.

The Members agreed to provide €20,000 to clear the balance outstanding in the Capital account in respect of the expenses incurred in the election process 2009.

The Members also noted that €18,920 has been provided in the Budget as income from the Non-Principal Private Residence Charge (NPPR).

### **Central Management Charge**

The Members noted that 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 - €5,029,577

County Demand - €1,123,357

Total Gross Revenue Expenditure - €6,152,934

Total Revenue Income - €1,973,477

Net Expenditure - €4,179,457

Local Government Fund Allocation - €828,489

Amount to be levied - €3,350,968

Net effective valuation - €46,538

General Rate on Valuation – 72.00

On the proposal of Cllr. Thomas Hagan seconded by Cllr. Paul McGeown it was agreed to adopt the Draft Budget as amended.

On the proposal of Cllr. Seamus Treanor seconded by Cllr. Seán Conlon it was agreed to approve the Rate on valuation of 72.00 to be levied for the year 2012.

The Members noted that the Budget, as adopted will be re-instated 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's Budget Sub-Committee in the preparation of the 2012 Budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012.

---

Cathaoirleach

