

**COMHAIRLE BAILE MHUINEACHÁIN  
MONAGHAN TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of Adjourned Annual Statutory Budget Meeting of Monaghan Town Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 5.00pm in the Council Chamber of Monaghan Town Council, Town Hall, 1 Dublin Street, Monaghan.

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Paul McGeown

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

In attendance: Paul Clifford, Temporary County Manager, John Murray, Head of Finance, Monaghan County Council, Dermot Deeney, Town Engineer, Marie Deighan, Town Clerk and Mary Hughes, Staff Officer.

**Consideration of Draft Budget 2014.**

At the outset Paul Clifford, Temporary County Manager stated that the Local Government Fund Allocation for the County for the year 2014 is €10.24m compared to €13.98m for 2013 (€3.7m reduced). It was noted that Monaghan County Council have allocated an extra €134,292 to Monaghan Town on foot of the new arrangements whereby the County Council allocate the Local Government Fund to each town in the County. The Members were requested to make a decision on how the additional sum be allocated.

It was noted that due to double accounting in salaries/retirement gratuities an additional sum of €33,000 has been identified.

Cllr. Seán Conlon stated that there had been a large number of reductions in funding in various division groups in the draft budget and proposed that €28,200 be allocated to reverse them. This was seconded by Cllr. David Maxwell.

Cllr. Seamus Treanor proposed that the remaining €4,800 be used to provide public lighting in different areas of the town. This was seconded by Cllr. Robbie Gallagher.

The additional amount of €33,000 was added to the Draft Budget and the following divisions were increased as follows:-

Division B – Road Upkeep by €1,000

Division B – Public lighting by €9,800

Division B – Christmas Lighting by €7,000

Division E - Street Cleaning by €2,000

Division F – Parks & Open Spaces by €2,000

Division F – Neighbourhood Youth Project (Halloween festivities) by €500

Division F – Immigrant Support Group by €100

Division F – Sub Aqua Club by €100

Division F – Harvest time Blues Festival by €500

Division F – Town Events by €10,000

Cllr. Mary Carroll proposed that the additional funding allocated by Monaghan County Council through the Local Government Fund be utilised to reduce the rate in the pound by 4% to €69.14. This was seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry.

The Members welcomed the fact that all supports could remain in place for the people of the town as in previous years as well as a 4% reduction in rates to the business people.

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

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Carroll seconded by Cllr. Donal Sherry it was agreed to approve the rate on valuation of €69.14 to be levied for the year 2014.

Cllr. Pádraigín Uí Mhurchadha commended the Town Council Executive Staff and the Budget Sub-Committee on the work they had done in preparing the budget.

Paul Clifford, Temporary County Manager thanked the Members of the Council and expressed appreciation to the Town Council staff and Head of Finance, John Murray for attending the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Paul McGeown thanked the Council Executive for their work in the preparation of the budget.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Dated this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2014.

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Cathaoirleach