

South Taranaki District Council

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the South Taranaki District Council held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 17 June 2009 commencing at 1.15 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor R Dunlop, Councillors I Armstrong, K Bourke, A Ballantyne, A Beccard, A Hickey, P Johnson, G Lawson, D Packer, M Powell, S Rangiwahia, I Smith and I Wards.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (Mr Stevenson), Group Manager Environment and Information Services (Mr Young), Acting Group Manager Community Services and Development (Ms Greenhill), Group Manager Engineering Services (Mr McCann), Support Services Manager (Miss Cox), Communications Manager (Mr Langford), Corporate Planner (Mrs Jane), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Zabel), Financial Consultant (Mr Dudley), 11 members of the public and three members of the media.

APOLOGIES: Nil.

1 REPORT

(a) Chief Executive

(i) Ten Year Plan Deliberations

Mr Stevenson highlighted the process for the deliberations and suggested that the councillors work through the deliberation report then the supplementary report as a starting point.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Powell/Cr Lawson)

80/09 **THAT the redrafted performance measures for water, rural swimming pools and pensioner housing as drafted in Appendix A be accepted for inclusion in the finalised 2009-19 Ten Year Plan.**

CARRIED

NRB Survey

Mr Stevenson advised that Audit New Zealand had suggested that the NRB Survey should be undertaken annually to ensure we met the legislative requirement for annual reporting on performance measures.

Some councillors did not consider that the results obtained by the survey could be justified by spending the additional \$25,000. Some councillors suggested that the Council live with the tag from Audit New Zealand in this respect. It was suggested that the Council investigate further ways to obtain data such as via the revamped website. It was noted that the survey could be undertaken in Year 1 and other options be investigated for the future.

Mr Stevenson advised that the survey would be undertaken in Year 1 and staff would then investigate a cost effective way of undertaking a survey of the residents in the District for Year 2.

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Powell)

81/09

THAT the South Taranaki District Council increases the satisfaction survey to annually at an additional cost of \$25,000 every second year to the current proposed budgets; and

THAT Council Officers investigate during 2009/10 alternative methods of carrying out satisfaction surveys, including in-house resourcing or alternative lower cost external providers.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Cr Rangiwahia/Cr Beccard)

82/09

THAT the current performance levels and redrafted performance measure targets as included in Appendix A be accepted for including in the finalised 2009-19 Ten Year Plan.

CARRIED

Budget Corrections

Mr Stevenson highlighted that there were a number of budget corrections that had been identified since the Ten Year Plan was audited and released for public consultation. Some of them involved a timing change while others were omissions that required additional funding. The majority of the retiming related to existing capital works projects within the Engineering activities.

Councillor Wards suggested that the Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF) management fees should be part of the overall LTIF and removed prior to any surplus being generated. Mr Dudley clarified that the management fees paid to the investment fund managers such as ING were taken directly off the LTIF. This amount of \$60,000 referred to Mercer's fees as the investment advisors. Mr Dudley noted that the deduction for fund managers could be placed against the fund value.

Councillor Rangiwahia referred to the budget correction for the financial accountant position which had been omitted from the original budget. He asked if any overheads were included in the cost structure. Mr Stevenson replied that there were some overheads attached to the position, however, the existing unit already had 9 people which covered overhead costs.

Mr Stevenson highlighted that there was a small saving on building accreditation and an increase in the parks development plan expenditure, with the latter suggested for reserve funding.

Mr Stevenson noted that the impact on the rate increases had been included in the report.

Councillor Rangiwahia referred to the \$70,000 investment into the Rugby World Cup and asked if this included a team making some appearance within South Taranaki. Ms Greenhill confirmed this noting that the funds would not be required if a team did not come to the District.

Additional Budgetary Requests from Council Officers

Mr Stevenson advised that a number of additional capital works projects had been included for a decision by the councillors.

The Hawera Signage project and the Aquatic Centre acoustics and ceiling projects were not supported by the councillors. It was suggested that the signage project could be referred to the Hawera Community Board for consideration in conjunction with the proposed business differential if this was successful. Some discussion was held around health and safety issues for the Aquatic Centre acoustics project. It was noted that this should have been included as part of the upgrade and was not supported as additional expenditure by the councillors.

The Eltham Sludge Disposal and Patea final disposal of consolidated sludge at a cost of \$50,000 each were supported by the councillors. Some discussion was held around whether the sludge would be suitable for fertiliser on farms, however, it was noted that this was not a viable option.

The Ohawe water water replacement was supported by the councillors and had become a high priority project for the Engineering department.

The Opunake water project related to a bespoke clarifier increasing the original budget from \$240,000 to \$700,000 in 2009/10. This was supported by the councillors.

A new project had been identified at the Waimate West Water Supply to remove pine needles from the Mangawhero-iti intake at a cost of \$200,000 in 2009/10. This was supported by the councillors. It was noted that this would increase the cubic meter rate for the Waimate West consumers.

The budget for the Waverley Water Treatment Plant was proposed to increase from \$618,040 to \$1,126,294. A reduction would occur in 2009/10 but significantly increase in 2010/11. Mr McCann indicated that the Council would be applying for funding assistance from the Capital Assistance Programme and it was hoped that this would be received. He noted that funding needed to be in place in the event that the application was unsuccessful. This was supported by the councillors.

The Patea Water Treatment Plan was in a similar situation to the Waverley Water Treatment Plant and this was also supported by the councillors.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Ballantyne/Cr Rangiwahia)

83/09

THAT the following additional projects and associated budgets are included in the Ten Year Plan 2009-19:

**Eltham Sludge Disposal
Patea final disposal of sludge
Ohawe water main replacement
Opunake water clarifier
Waimate West Water intake improvements
Waverley Water Treatment Plant upgrade
Patea Water Treatment Plant upgrade**

CARRIED

Policy Decisions

Mr Stevenson referred to the waste water charging (pan tax) proposal which was to charge domestic waste based on the number of toilets in each property from 2010/11 onward.

Some proposed exemptions included properties used as schools including pre schools, properties used as commercial motorcamps and churches.

Some discussion was held around the pan tax proposal and the exemptions that had been proposed. It was noted that some facilities with public toilets would all be charged the maximum rate. It was asked whether the Council would be paying the additional charges for their own facilities. Mr Stevenson confirmed this stating that all Council properties were rated the same as any other property.

Some councillor noted that those facilities that were affected were not creating any extra *load* on the system. It was noted that often new facilities were required to put in a certain number of toilets even though they may not be utilised that often. It was asked whether there was any figures available to support this proposal. Mr Stevenson replied that it would take a significant amount of work to obtain the data and was unsure how many pans would qualify within the district. It was suggested that the better gains would be through an introduced trade waste bylaw which would be investigated in Year 1 of the Plan.

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Powell)

84/09

THAT the Council introduces a pan tax commencing in the 2010/11 rating year with the following sliding scale of charges and exemptions:

- **Rating units with 1 or 2 toilets will be charged 1 targeted rate**
- **Rating units with up to 6 toilets will be charged 2 targeted rates**
- **Rating units with up to 12 toilets will be charged 3 targeted rates**
- **Rating units with 13 or more toilets will be charged 4 targeted rates**

Exemptions:

- **Properties used as schools including pre schools**
- **Properties used as commercial motorcamps**
- **Churches**

CARRIED

Councillor Bourke asked that her vote against the motion be recorded.

Mr Stevenson asked the councillors to consider the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) proposal.

Councillor Ballantyne expressed some concern that a number of submitters against the UAGC proposal had been late submissions and should not have been included.

Some discussion was held around the UAGC and some councillors supported the UAGC being re-investigated to ensure that it was fair and equitable across the whole community.

Councillor Wards did not support the proposal to link the UAGC to the CPI increases. He considered that linking the UAGC to the actual cost of activities provided transparency. He supported a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy being undertaken. He noted that the Council did not have the ability to determine the ratepayers' ability to pay.

Councillor Beccard commented that a UAGC was not charged on every dwelling on a farm, however, this occurred in the urban area. Mrs Jane clarified that a granny flat on an urban property was not charged two UAGC's unless it was being rented out to someone who was not a family member.

The councillors debated whether the UAGC should be allocated against a number of activities which included swimming pools, parks and reserves, cemeteries and toilets or as the proposed set rate which would increase in line with the CPI.

The councillors supported retaining the status quo for the UAGC for this coming financial year which was to fund a number of activities as this was considered to be more transparent.

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Bourke)

85/09

THAT the status quo remain for the Uniform Annual General Charge funding the following activities:

**Toilets
Parks & Reserves
Rural Swimming Pools
The Hub & Aquatic Centre
Halls
Cemeteries
Events
30% of i-SITE Tourism**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Wards)

86/09

THAT a more robust and intensive rates review be undertaken; and

THAT management schedule a full review of the Revenue and Financing Policy.

CARRIED

The Mayor considered that the removal of the Patea Hydro Dam differential was difficult to justify. He noted that they did not receive significant services to justify an increase in rates of approximately \$65,000. Councillor Wards agreed noting that the reasons for the establishment of the differential had not changed and the suggestion to remove the differential was unreasonable. He noted that Trustpower did not receive a significant service from the Council.

Some discussion was held around Lake Rotorangi and how the dam had created many recreational facilities which included a camping area along with additional access via Tangahoe Valley Road. It was noted that the Patea

Hydro Dam was no further isolated than some of the back country farms within the District.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Powell/Cr Johnson)

- 87/09** **THAT the general and roading rate differential for the Patea Hydro Dam cease to exist for the 2009/10 rating year and beyond.**

CARRIED

Councillor Wards requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Powell/Cr Beccard)

- 88/09** **THAT the general and roading rate differential for the properties valued over \$40 million cease to exist for the 2009/10 rating year and beyond.**

CARRIED

Councillors Wards and Smith requested that their vote against the motion be recorded.

The meeting adjourned at 3.20 pm and reconvened at 3.40 pm.

Councillor Johnson supported the Hawera Town Co-ordinator position as proposed by the Hawera Business Association, however, he did not support this position being part of the Council. He acknowledged that the Hawera Business Association was not a legal entity and suggested that the position could be a short-term contract with the Council. He considered that all *volunteer* organisations should be exempt from the 1.75 differential on the general rate. Councillor Smith agreed that the position should be removed from the Council.

Councillor Powell supported the proposal noting that the right person employed as the Hawera Town Co-ordinator could do wonders to improve Hawera as a whole.

Councillor Rangiwahia suggested that this was a *nice to have* item and he had surveyed a number of businesses within the town who had expressed some concern about their *bottom line*. He suggested that the differential could be deferred for one to two years until the economy showed some improvement.

Councillor Packer fully supported the proposal adding that she considered the role to have synergy with the Council. She had no concerns regarding the position being within Council on the proviso that support and mentoring was provided to the Hawera Town Co-ordinator.

Councillor Bourke acknowledged the Hawera Business Association and commented that this was an organisation that was passionate about Hawera and wanted to ensure that Hawera was a vibrant town to visit. She supported the proposal and asked that the Council support the Hawera Business Association in any capacity available.

Councillor Armstrong supported the concept, however, expressed some concerns regarding the poll that had been undertaken by the Hawera Business Association. He suggested that the differential could come under a

separate cost centre and be kept separate from any other Council budgets. Mr Stevenson confirmed that any funding obtained would be kept separate to other Council budgets.

Councillor Wards supported the overall concept and congratulated the Hawera Business Association on the work they had undertaken on the proposal to date. He considered that charitable organisations should be exempt from the rate. He acknowledged that those within the Central Business District would have a greater advantage from this proposal than some other commercial zones. He asked if two separate commercial rates could be obtained for those within the Central Business District and those commercial businesses outside those boundaries. There could be two separate rates for those commercial properties.

Councillor Beccard supported the proposal, however, suggested that if this was successful a meeting of all businesses affected by the rate be held. He suggested that all of the businesses rated would become members of the Hawera Business Association and should be able to be involved in how the funds raised would be spent on Hawera. He supported the position being a 12 month position within the Council and then run by the Hawera Business Association once it had been set up as a legal entity.

Councillor Lawson did not support the proposal on the basis that he did not consider that the Council should be rating businesses on behalf of an organisation. He suggested that it should be entirely independent of the Council. Councillor Hickey agreed noting that she was unaware of the Council being able to rate on behalf of an organisation.

Mr Stevenson highlighted that the Council was able to rate on behalf of the Hawera Business Association, noting that this was undertaken for the Taranaki Regional Council at present. He noted that there was no legalities for the Council to undertake this proposal. Mr Stevenson noted that there were some practical issues to exempting voluntary and charitable organisations.

The Mayor had some concerns over exemptions of certain organisations, noting that the landowner could provide an exemption themselves to such organisations to ensure that they remained within their buildings. He considered that there would be benefits for all commercial businesses and it was up to them to become involved as much as possible.

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Packer)

89/09

THAT a targeted rate based on capital value on properties used for commercial and industrial purposes within the defined rating area below be utilised to raise \$140,000 each year to fund a Town Co-ordinator and associated projects.

Defined Rating Area: Within the geographic area 500 metres beyond the Hawera Borough Council boundary.

CARRIED

Councillor Ballantyne proposed a motion to exempt non profit and welfare organisations from the rate. It was suggested that the Council officers could be delegated the authority to make a decision on exemptions for such organisations. On a show of hands this motion was lost.

Councillor Ballantyne referred to the water by meter charge proposal and noted that this had come about due to farmlets with water meters paying less for water than those neighbouring properties on a fixed charge.

Mr Stevenson advised that the water by meter charge had not increased in the last ten years and currently the charge did not meet the cost of reading the meters and subsequent administration charges for sending out the invoices. Mr Stevenson advised that a number of the meters were old and past their use by date.

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Bourke)

90/09 **THAT the urban water by meter charge be increased to \$100 in 2009/10, \$150 in 2010/11 and \$200 in 2011/12; and**

THAT the rural water meter charge be established at \$100 in 2009/10 and increase to \$150 in 2010/11 and \$200 in 2011/12.

CARRIED

Councillor Ballantyne proposed that the minimum charge be reintroduced that equated to the current targeted rate for water to be applied to all urban water users. It was suggested that this be referred to the Water Working Party. Councillor Ballantyne withdrew this motion and supported it being referred to the Water Working Party.

Mr Stevenson referred to the Revenue and Financing Policy recommendations which included a number of changes as a result of the review of the Policy by the Council.

A number of submissions had been received regarding the dog registration fee proposed increase. It was suggested that there could be a gold card discount offered for the senior citizens.

Some discussion was held around the submissions that had been received from the rural sector regarding the increases. It was noted that the rural sector could claim the registration fees as a business expense.

Councillor Johnson commented that as a farmer he supported the recommendation noting that a number of the issues related to those dog owners residing on a lifestyle property.

Councillor Wards acknowledged the work of the Animal Services Officers and noted that there was a significant amount of work put into identifying unregistered dogs.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Wards/Cr Johnson)

91/09 **THAT the existing funding allocation within the Revenue and Financing Policy for Animal Services be retained and that the proposed fee structure be adopted.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Cr Armstrong/Cr Powell)

92/09 **THAT the proposed funding allocation within the Revenue and Financing Policy for the Aquatic Centre and the proposed fee structure be adopted.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION**(Cr Powell/Cr Wards)**

93/09

THAT the proposed funding allocation within the Revenue and Financing Policy for cemeteries be adopted; and

THAT the proposed fee structure be adopted but without a discounted fee structure for simultaneous burial and plot purchases.

CARRIED**RESOLUTION****(Cr Powell/Cr Rangiwahia)**

94/09

THAT the existing funding allocation within the Revenue and Financing Policy be retained for the hall activity and that the proposed fee structure be adopted.

CARRIED**RESOLUTION****(Cr Beccard/Cr Johnson)**

95/09

THAT the proposed funding allocation within the Revenue and Financing Policy for Solid Waste and the proposed fee structure be adopted.

CARRIED

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SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**(a) Chief Executive**

- (i) Supplementary Report on options for rate increases for Ten Year Plan Deliberations

Mr Stevenson highlighted that over the long term the inflation adjusted average rate increase was within reasonable limits but the general rate component in particular, was very high in the first two years. He noted that this impacted unevenly on ratepayers and given the feedback from submitters and the current economic conditions, some smoothing seemed appropriate and sensible.

Mr Stevenson highlighted that the Council still had a considerable Capital Expenditure programme in the future and this would result in relatively high levels of debt. He noted that with those factors combined, it was suggested that it could be timely to consider a full review of Levels of Service.

Councillor Ballantyne commented that he was relatively comfortable with the proposed 12% increase. He noted that the public was expecting it and had accepted the proposed increase.

RESOLUTION**(Cr Wards/Cr Ballantyne)**

96/09

THAT the Chief Executive be delegated authority to use the unbalanced budget provision within the Local Government Act 2002 to smooth the general and roading rates for the first three years of the 2009/2019 Ten Year Plan.

CARRIED

Funding Requests

Waverley Cemetery Board

The Waverley Cemetery Board requested \$11,000 to purchase a new ride on lawn mower to keep the Waverley Cemetery well maintained and presentable. The Board currently received a grant from the Council of \$20,000 per annum to maintain the Waverley Cemetery. The councillors requested additional information relating to the Waverley Cemetery Board application for funding.

Russ Standing

Mr Russ Standing applied for \$7,800 towards research and writing a history of the Patea Freezing Works Company.

This application was declined by the Council and suggested that Mr Standing approach Creative Communities for funding.

Hawera Foodbank

The Hawera Foodbank requested an annual contribution of \$10,000 from the Council to cover rental at their new premises and operating expenses. It was noted that the Hawera Foodbank had previously received free rental at the Ngati Ruanui building and had decided to relocate to Albion Street.

The Council declined this application and suggested that the Hawera Foodbank approach the Hawera Community Board as a possible funding source.

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau requested an annual grant of \$6,000 toward the cost of renting their Union Street, Hawera office.

Councillor Wards declared an interest as a volunteer for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Council supported the application from the Citizens Advice Bureau for \$3,000. It was suggested that the Hawera Community Board could be approached as a further source of funding.

St Georges Church Restoration Committee

The St Georges Church Restoration Committee requested \$20,000 towards Stage 2 of the restoration project.

Councillor Johnson commented that this was one of only three heritage classification 1 buildings in our district and asked if there was any obligation on the Council to keep the facility in good repair. Mr Young replied that there was no requirement from the Council to maintain the facility as the buildings were in private ownership, however, the three buildings were protected by the Council through the District Plan.

The Council declined the application from the St Georges Church Restoration Committee.

Taranaki Garden Trust

The Taranaki Trust requested funding towards the Fringe Festival which ran concurrently with the Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival.

The Council supported the application for \$5,000.

Taranaki Arts Festival Trust (TAFT)

The Taranaki Arts Festival Trust (TAFT) applied for funding of \$30,000 to organise a number of regional events including the Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival, Taranaki Arts Festival and WOMAD.

The Council approved the application for \$30,000.

Parihaka Peace Festival

The Parihaka Peace Festival Committee requested \$25,000 towards the Parihaka Peace Festival.

Some concerns were raised that financial information had been requested from the Parihaka Peace Festival Committee and had not been received. It was noted that Mrs Martin, Group Manager Community Services and Development, had recently received the annual report.

The Council supported the application from the Parihaka Peace Festival Committee for \$25,000.

The meeting adjourned at 5.08 pm and reconvened on Thursday 18 June at 11.05 am.

Waverley Cemetery Board

Further information was provided for the councillors information that included the charges for a burial plot (\$300), cremation plot (\$135) and burial charges of \$675, most of which went to the Sexton.

The councillors commented that the Waverley Cemetery Board was providing a service for the Council at a minimal cost rather than incorporating the cemetery into the wider Council contract.

It was noted that the Waverley Cemetery Board currently had \$17,000 cash in hand. Mr Sargeant advised that the \$17,000 would be used towards operational costs.

The Council supported the application from the Waverley Cemetery Board for \$6,000 towards the purchase of a new ride-on lawn mower.

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

The Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust (the Trust) requested \$55,000 per year for three years towards the salary of a site manager and promotion of the sanctuary.

Councillor Ballantyne declared an interest as a member of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust.

Councillor Lawson asked how much the Council currently contributed towards maintenance at the Reserve. Ms Greenhill replied that the Council paid \$6,000 through the greenspace contract to undertake general maintenance at the Reserve. They had also contributed \$6,000 per annum for three years towards pest eradication, however, this had been reduced to \$1,000 per annum for the 2008/09 year.

Councillor Powell considered that the Trust seemed to think that the Council was a bottomless pit in terms of Council funding. Councillor Hickey agreed.

Councillor Packer said she would like to support the Trust in some way as she considered that the venue was recognised as a critical eco cultural venue and was promoted as part of our tourism culture. Councillor Bourke agreed noting that the Reserve drew people to South Taranaki. She suggested that the Council continue funding the \$6,000 towards to the maintenance at the reserve and \$10,000 towards the promotion of the Reserve.

Councillor Wards considered that the Council was now in a position where it was necessary to provide a degree of ongoing support possibly not to the level requested.

Councillor Armstrong supported the Trust accepting the offer from the TSB Community Trust to support the project through their *SCOPE* programme where a consultant would be appointed at no cost to support the Trust. It was noted that it was difficult to obtain funding for salaries and it was suggested that \$10,000 could be funded without it being tagged for any particular item.

The Council supported funding \$10,000 to the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust for three years, subject to the Trust accepting the SCOPE programme assistance.

Councillor Johnson requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

Opunake Artificial Reef

The Opunake Artificial Reef Trust (OART) applied for funding of \$10,000 to pay two outstanding local tradespeople who had undertaken work on the project.

Councillor Bourke did not support the project, she noted that it was still not finished and not working and did not consider that ASR would finish their end of the contract to ensure that the reef would work. Councillor Rangiwahia agreed noting that the Council should not be funding any further work at the reef.

Councillor Wards considered that the Council was in a position where if they did not support the application then the reef may never be finished and it would be a *waste* of the funding that had already been invested. He noted that there was some insurance that would come into effect if the reef did not work once it had been completed. He noted that ASR had provided an assurance that they would complete work on the reef without any further interim payments.

Councillor Packer expressed some concern that the accounts for the two local tradespeople had not been received. She asked that Mr Stevenson view the invoices for the work that had been undertaken to ensure that if funding was granted it would be used for that purpose. Councillor Beccard agreed noting that the Trust had not been effective in managing this project.

Councillor Armstrong did not support the application for funding as he considered that this project had not been managed well and that the trustees had some responsibility. He noted that the Council had already funded a significant part of this project.

Mr Stevenson advised that ASR had agreed to finish the work ahead of being paid and if the reef did not work there was a non performance insurance policy of \$500,000. He noted that there was also a bond of \$50,000 set aside to remove the reef if it did not work. Mr Stevenson advised that the Council was unable to pay the local tradespeople directly, however, he supported viewing the accounts prior to paying the \$10,000 if the Council agreed to this application.

The Council did not support funding \$10,000 towards the Opunake Artificial Reef Trust.

Councillor Bourke asked that her vote against the motion be recorded.

Submission Analysis

Some discussion as held around the number of submissions received regarding the Coastal Walkway. It was noted that the Hawera Community Board supported some funding being set aside to progress stages of the walkway. A service organisation such as the Lions club could be approached to undertake part of the walkway as a project.

It was suggested that the Hawera Community Board could set aside some funding towards the project.

Councillor Beccard suggested that there would be a number of volunteers who could assist in the project. It was possible to undertake stages of the coastal walkway that did not require a huge capital investment. It was considered that the walkway would be valuable for the District.

The Council supported \$10,000 being funded for the 2009/10 financial year.

Councillor Rangiwahia asked for information relating to the salary bands for Council staff be included in the Plan. He considered that the ratepayers would be interested in this type of information. Councillor Bourke agreed.

Councillor Powell did not support any information regarding staff salaries. He noted that the councillors did not have any say in staff remuneration and considered that staff would be paid what they deserved on a national-wide basis. He did not see how disclosing what staff were paid would be beneficial for the councillors.

Councillor Packer supported some information being provided noting that it was timely to show the public that the Council was running a lean business and assure the public that the Council was not overloaded with personnel. She respected confidentiality for staff.

Mr Stevenson requested clarification as to whether the councillors wanted to view banding details or whether they wanted this included in the Annual Report.

Councillor Johnson advised that he had received a number of questions regarding staffing levels. He had requested this information from Mr Stevenson who had been open and transparent in responding to his request for information. He suggested if the councillors wanted information then they should request this through Mr Stevenson. Councillor Wards agreed.

Mr Stevenson undertook to provide information to the councillors relating to the band of salaries for staff employed at the Council.

Councillor Wards referred to the submission relating to users fees from Celine Filbee and suggested that the Council needed to keep their fees for facilities at a sufficient level that would not impact on others in the community in a negative way.

Councillor Packer referred to the proposal from the Patea Community Board requesting the Council to consider splitting the areas in the Patea Ward North and South of the Whenuakura River for elective representatives for the Council and Community Board. She did not support this request given that it had been difficult to encourage members to stand for the Community Board at the last election. The Mayor noted that this had been discussed during the representation review process and had not been supported.

Councillor Packer referred to the submissions from previous Patea Hospital staff who had asked the Council to force the owner of the site to remove the dilapidated and vandalised buildings. Mr Young advised that the focus was currently on the Patea Freezing Works site. He noted that the Patea Hospital buildings were structurally sound and there was no higher risk of asbestos compared to any normal dwelling.

Councillor Powell asked if the Council was able to monitor the disability parks within the Countdown carpark. Mr Young replied that he could discuss *policing* of the carparks with the property owner, however, the Council could not regulate or police parking on private property.

Councillor Rangiwahia referred to the Iwi Liaison position and asked if this would be an officer or an advisor. Mr Stevenson replied that neither title implied any seniority and the title could be revisited.

The Mayor had some questions over whether the position needed to be a full-time position. He considered that it could start as a part-time position and then be reviewed at a later date. Mr Stevenson clarified that this was a decision for the Chief Executive not the councillors.

The councillors supported the recommendation from the Taranaki District Health Board that Council organised events be made smokefree. Councillor Johnson noted that the Hawera Community Board would be proposing to implement a liquor ban in King Edward Park during certain hours and this would be presented to the Council in the near future.

Councillor Armstrong referred to the submission to plant native trees on Reserve land in Opunake. He noted that it could be worth approaching the Taranaki Regional Council who may have a number of native trees available. Mr Sargeant would be requested to follow this up with the Taranaki Regional Council.

Councillor Armstrong requested an update with progress on the Halls review. Councillor Rangiwahia requested a copy of the previous hall review to be provided to all councillors.

The meeting adjourned at 1.00 pm and reconvened at 1.38 pm.

The Mayor referred to the submission relating to the Taumata Park grandstand noting that it was in a poor condition. He noted that the Eltham Athletics Club had indicated that they could assist with an upgrade by providing labour. Councillor Lawson advised that there was a Reserve Fund that could be utilised to upgrade the grandstand. Mr Stevenson advised that Council officers would investigate this further.

Councillor Ballantyne referred to the submission from the Hawera Water Ski Club (the Club) and suggested that the Club investigate other funding options. The Mayor acknowledged that the Club had installed clubrooms at the site. Mr Stevenson commented that while the Council was the owner of the lake surface the lake existed to provide commercial benefit to Trustpower who had consent to alter the lake levels for power generation. He noted that the Council had undertaken some jointly funded work on silt clearance, however, there was no budget set aside to undertake any of the projects requested by the Club. He acknowledged that the Club had created a very good asset which was one of the most popular summer camping grounds in the District.

It was suggested that the Hawera Community Board meet with the Club to discuss the submission further. They could develop proposals and report back to the Council.

Councillor Johnson referred to the submission from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association regarding parking for two nights in the 50 to 70 km per hour areas. Ms Greenhill advised that there was a restriction on urban areas of Opunake and Hawera. The councillors supported the submission provided that they were not parking within a reasonable distance of the campgrounds. Mr Stevenson indicated that Council officers would investigate this policy further.

Councillor Bourke referred to the submission received from the Hawera Repertory Society Inc (the Society) regarding the Hawera Memorial Theatre. She noted that she had been disgusted at the state of the theatre during their last variety show. A letter had been written to Mr Sargeant outlining a number of issues including emergency lighting not working, spouting rusted, downpipes missing and leaks throughout the building. She noted that none of the issues outlined in the letter had been actioned and she was surprised that the theatre would pass the building *warrant of fitness*. She noted that she was embarrassed by the state of the theatre.

Councillor Bourke commented that replacing the lighting desk and dimmer packs was a good idea, however, it was not worth doing if everything else was *falling down* and not being maintained.

Mr Stevenson advised that a number of years ago the Council had implemented a policy where only essential services on community facilities were maintained. He noted that some of those facilities had fallen into serious disrepair and a new upgrade and maintenance programme had been put in place. He noted that the theatre was only used by a small number of people per year compared to other facilities around the District.

Councillor Beccard commented that the Council needed to maintain the facilities that they had, otherwise sell or dispose of them.

Councillor Armstrong asked if this type of issue would be considered as part of the levels of service review. Mr Stevenson replied that this could be considered prior to the review, however, he noted that the Council owned a multitude of facilities around the District and it would be an expensive exercise to keep them highly maintained.

It was noted that the replacement of the lighting desk and dimmer packs and some minor maintenance work would be undertaken by the funds already budgeted for improvements to the Hawera Community Centre.

Some discussion was held around vertical burials, however, this was not supported at this stage.

Councillor Bourke left the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Councillor Beccard referred to the submission from the Normanby School Board of Trustees (BoT) requesting assistance towards the Normanby School pool. He supported working with the BoT without providing funding. The Mayor agreed.

The Council did not support funding \$20,000 towards the Normanby School Pool, however suggested that the Council provide support through the Community Development Unit.

The Council supported Council officers working with the Opunake Community Baths Society to identify capital improvements and include a contribution towards those improvements when the next Ten Year Plan is developed in 2012.

The Council supported that the Taskforce goal for youth be included in the Community and Social Development activity pages of the Ten Year Plan.

Councillors Packer and Beccard supported the Council requesting the Trustees of the TSB Community Trust to discuss a variation of the Trust Deed to specify the South Taranaki district as part of its specified area.

Councillor Ballantyne commented that this had been discussed in the previous year by the TSB Community Trust, however, it required a 75% vote to change the boundaries. He suggested that it could be worth approaching again on a respectful level.

It was agreed that the Patea ward councillors discuss the options to proceed this request with the TSB Community Trust and undertake the request accordingly.

Councillor Johnson referred to the request from the Hawera Community Board to reverse the funding earmarked for the Ohawe Beach toilets and allocate this to toilet facilities at Waihi Beach. Councillor Powell agreed.

Mr Stevenson suggested that the Te Rangitapu Trustees be approached regarding the toilet upgrade at Ohawe Beach to see if this could be resolved. He noted that new toilets at Waihi Beach would be a significant cost as there were currently no sewer or water facilities in place.

Mrs Mecalick updated the Council on the submission made by the Egmont Community Arts Council (the Arts Council) relating to the grants allocations. She noted that the Arts Council had wanted to continue to distribute grants on behalf of the Council, however changes to the guidelines by Creative New Zealand meant this was no longer an option. She noted that this was not a decision for the Council to make and Creative New Zealand had indicated that the Arts Council was not allowed to make the grants on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Armstrong asked if the Arts Council could be on the allocation panel. Mrs Mecalick confirmed that representatives from the Arts Council were on the allocation panel.

The Council agreed that the Egmont Community Arts Council was unable to continue allocating funds on behalf of the Council and suggested that a letter be sent thanking them for their work that they had undertaken to date. This letter was to be sent via the Egmont Plains ward councillors for their approval.

Councillors Packer and Ballantyne supported the submissions received relating to fluoridation of both the Patea and Waverley Water Treatment Plants. Mr McCann advised that this would be a cost of around \$30,000 to \$50,000 per water treatment plant.

The councillors agreed to the suggestion to undertake fluoridation of both the Patea and Waverley Water Treatment Plant subject to consultation with the community and the Taranaki District Health Board.

The councillors discussed the submission relating to the water charges for Kaponga farmers. It was noted that the Kaponga farmers made a small contribution at the time of their connection into the Waimate West.

It was agreed that management be instructed to investigate in the coming year the water charges for the Kaponga farmers to ensure that it was justified.

Some discussion was held around the Opunake Transfer Station. It was considered that the current set up was impractical.

It was agreed that the Egmont Plains ward councillors investigate this further and report back on possible options for the Opunake Transfer Station.

The councillors discussed the street cleaning contract and the submissions that had been received in relation to *inadequate* street cleaning. Mr Stevenson advised that the Council did not contribute a significant amount of funding towards street cleaning. If the Council was prepared to spend additional funds on street cleaning then this could be investigated further into a higher level of service.

The meeting adjourned at 3.22 pm and reconvened at 3.35 pm.

Late and Additional Submissions

A number of issues were raised by Ms Marianne Archibald relating to the Waverley area. The proposal for an artificial turf was not supported by the Council. It was noted that the Waverley library was already open for extended hours on a Thursday night and the option to open on the weekend was not supported.

Ms Archibald considered that the recycling part of the Waverley Transfer Station was un-useable. Mr McCann highlighted that a review of all the recycling facilities around the District was being undertaken the following day. The requests for maintenance to be undertaken at the Aotea Park playground would be managed in-house.

Councillor Packer referred to the joint submission between Iwi (Ngati Ruanui and Nga Rauru) and said that she supported the retention of the Patea Domain playground as it was well utilised.

It was agreed that this issue be referred to the Patea Community Board to investigate further.

Councillor Packer clarified that there had been a mistake in the joint submission from Iwi, noting that they did support the Iwi Liaison Officer position and this had been clarified at the Iwi Liaison Committee meeting the previous day.

Rate Increases

Mrs Jane advised that the increase in rates was proposed at 13.57% prior to any smoothing taking place.

Councillor Ballantyne commented that the Council had consulted on a 9% increase and there had not been a significant amount of protests against the rate increase.

Councillor Wards expressed some concern at the rate increase and had some concerns over the smoothing process which he considered would result in the inability to add any other projects to the Plan for a number of years.

Mrs Jane advised that for urban ratepayers there would be a \$10 increase for water and wastewater and kerbside would reduce by \$33. This was already a \$23 saving prior to the rate increase being applied.

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Ballantyne)

97/09

THAT the Council approves the listed additional expenditure (listed below) to be included in the Ten Year Plan as a result of the submission process:

- **Waverley Cemetery Board \$6,000 for 2009/10**
- **Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust \$10,000 annually for 3 years subject to SCOPE assistance being accepted**
- **Coastal Walkway \$10,000 for 2009/10**
- **Citizens Advice Bureau \$3,000 for 2009/10**
- **Taranaki Garden Trust \$5,000 annually for 3 years**
- **Taranaki Arts Festival Trust \$30,000 annually for 3 years**
- **Parihaka Peace Festival \$25,000 annually for 3 years**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Rangiwahia)

98/09 **THAT the Council notes that a full recommendation detailing the exact amounts of the unbalanced budget will form part of the adoption of the Ten Year Plan on 8 July 2009.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Cr Wards/Cr Lawson)

99/09 **THAT the Council wishes to embark on a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy followed by a full Level of Services review in 2009/10.**

CARRIED

RESOLUTION

(Mayor/Cr Rangiwahia)

100/09 **THAT the new dog registration fees be adopted and approved for implementation on 1 July 2009.**

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 4.25 pm.

Dated this day of 2009.

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CHAIRPERSON