

19th June, 2007

TO : EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

A Special Meeting of Donegal County Council, requisitioned by the Mayor, will be held on ***Monday 25th June at 11.00am*** in the County House, Lifford, to consider the appended agenda.

You are hereby requested to attend.

E. Sweeney
Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

1. To discuss and agree counter funding for Marine Services Projects (including Islands).

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 2007
IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD

- C/332/07 MEMBERS PRESENT
Clrs. E. Bonner, Mayor, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, A. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, F. Conaghan, G. Crawford, Pearse Doherty, J. Harte, J. Kennedy, D. Larkin, N. McBride, T. McDaid, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, D. McGonagle, B. McGuinness, Pádraig O' Dochartaigh, B. O'Neill, T. Pringle and J.J Reid
- C/333/07 APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Clrs. Mc Donald and Slowey who were unable to attend the meeting.
- C/334/07 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE
Mr. Michael McLoone County Manager, Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, Mr. Aidan Mc Nicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning and Economic Development, Mr. James Boyle, Senior Engineer, Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, Mr. Eunan Sweeney, Meetings Administrator, Ms. Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer.
- C/335/07 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE COUNTER FUNDING FOR MARINE SERVICES PROJECTS (INCLUDING ISLANDS)
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above, together with the report on the Development Contribution Schemes (DCS) circulated by Mr. Francie Coyle, Director of Planning and Economic Development.
The County Manager informed the Council that the purpose of the meeting was to outline the need for counter funding of various marine capital projects. The estimated cost of these works was €8,086,866 with counter funding of €1,523,716 now required from Donegal County Council. The balance of funding was available from the Development Contribution

Scheme, and it was now a matter for the Council to consider the various options available.

Mr. John Mc Laughlin, Director Roads and Transportation outlined the range and extent of the various Marine Services Projects concerned and advised that the following funding options should now be considered:-

- Use of Development Levies raised for Roads and Marine works from March 1, 2006 to the present.
- Amendment of existing scheme to fund requirements.
- A combination of the above, including the prioritisation of projects to the limit of funds available/allocated.

Mr. Francie Coyle, Director Planning and Economic Development proceeded to outline the main points of his report and advised that there were sufficient development charges i.e. €1,577,568.17 under DCS Roads and Marine to counter fund the Marine Programme, if members so decided.

A lengthy debate ensued with a number of members acknowledging the need to urgently pursue the Marine Programme on a countywide basis. The importance of various Islands projects was noted and members highlighted projects in their own Electoral Areas which they believed merited consideration. It was noted that the Stranorlar and Letterkenny Electoral Areas did not have specific projects and that monies raised through development charges in these areas were going to be spent in other areas of the county. Concern was expressed that the decision to allocate monies to Roads and Marine would set a precedent for the allocation of future development charge monies. Concern was also raised in relation to future funding prospects, and in particular the impact counter funding would have on Interegg 111 Projects.

It was acknowledged a considerable portion of the levies had been generated in the Inishowen Electoral Area, and that as a result it would be necessary to provide clear and accurate information on the range of projects requiring funding on a countywide basis. The necessity of keeping an adequate record of the transfer of development charges from one area to another was also deemed essential.

Members advised that every effort should be made to speed up the collection of outstanding charges and requested that more information be provided on the various collection agreements in place.

Clr. Conaghan requested that a report be brought to the Inishowen Electoral Area Committee in relation to a number of marine projects in the Inishowen Area.

Mr. Francie Coyle, confirmed that the reason there was no figure included under DCS Footpath/Lighting in the Letterkenny Area was simply due to the method of receipting used.

He assured the Council that there was still sufficient funding in the Development Contribution Scheme to fund 2007 budget commitments.

He noted that the DCS Roads Levy had been in existence from March 2004 until March 2006, with the DCS Roads & Marine Levy being introduced in March 2006.

Mr. Vincent Lynn, Senior Engineer, advised that Donegal County Council would work in tandem with Letterkenny Town Council in relation to the development of a specific project in the Letterkenny Electoral Area. He also advised that the Fahan Marina Project was not included in this years programme.

The County Manager advised members that it would be important to look at the combined Roads and Marine Projects within the context of the next and future quarterly report for Roads as these would give members advance notice of the range of decisions to be taken in relation to future allocations.

On the proposal of Clr. P. O' Dochartaigh, seconded by Clr. Mc Eniff, it was resolved to allocate €1,523,716 of development levies, raised since March 1, 2006 to the present, towards the counter funding of Marine Services Projects (including Islands).

Clr. Crawford requested that the record state, that given the atrocious state of the road network in the Letterkenny Electoral Area, he could not support the above proposal and in particular the allocation of €270,337.12 of levies generated in the Letterkenny Electoral Area for the development of Marine Projects elsewhere in the county.

This concluded the business of the meeting.