

**MINUTES OF RESUMED STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNTY HOUSE, LIFFORD, CO. DONEGAL
ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2006 AT 10.00 a.m. FOR THE PURPOSE
OF ADOPTING A BUDGET AND DETERMINING THE ANNUAL RATE ON
VALUATION FOR THE SERVICES OF THE LOCAL FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 2006**

C/12/06

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dessie Larkin, Cathaoirleach	Cllr J.J. Reid
Cllr Liam Blaney	Cllr David Alcorn
Cllr Enda Bonner	Cllr Alice Bonner
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr John Boyle
Cllr Gerry Crawford	Cllr Francis Conaghan
Cllr Padraig Doherty	Cllr Brendan Byrne
Cllr Rena Donaghey	Cllr Pearse Doherty
Cllr Jonathan Kennedy	Cllr Jimmy Harte
Cllr Noel McBride	Cllr Tony McDaid
Cllr Denis McGonagle	Cllr Sean McEniff
Cllr Patrick McGowan	Cllr Ian McGarvey
Cllr Bernard McGuinness	Cllr Brian O'Domhnaill
Cllr Padraig MacLochlainn	Cllr Thomas Pringle
Cllr Barry O'Neill	Cllr Terence Slowey

C/13/06

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mr Michael McLoone, County Manager
Mr Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance
Mr Liam Kelly, ACM & Director of Services, Housing/Building
Mr John G McLaughlin, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation
Mr Jim Holohan, Director of Services, Water/Env/Emergency
Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Services, Planning/Economic Dev.
Mr Sean Sheridan, Director of Services, Corporate Services
Mr Joe Peoples, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Mr Bartley McGlynn, Senior Executive Officer, Finance
Mr Garry Martin, Senior Executive Officer, C, C & E
Mr Eamonn Canney, Senior Engineer, Housing
Ms Anne Marie Quinn, Administrative Officer, Finance
Mr Bernard McNeely, Administrative Officer, Finance
Ms Marie Quinn, Assistant Staff Officer, Finance
Ms Pauline Smyth, Assistant Accountant, Finance
Ms Donna Rodgers, Clerical Officer, Finance

C/14/06

APOLOGIES

Cllr Marion McDonald
Mr Michael Heaney, Director of Service, C, C & E

C/15/06

CATHAOIRLEACH'S ADDRESS

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Dessie Larkin, opened the resumed Budget Meeting for 2006 and welcomed all in attendance. He and all the Members offered congratulations to:

- (i). Cllr Patrick McGowan on his appointment to the European Committee of the Regions,
- (ii). Mr Michael McLoone, County Manager on being presented with the Hall of Fame Award by Aodh Ruadh G.A.A. Club, Ballyshannon, and
- (iii). Mary Hannigan and Paul Kilcoyne on their recent marriage.

C/16/06

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All of the Members complimented the County Manager, the Head of Finance, the Directors of Services and all staff involved in the preparation and production of the Draft Budget Book. All issues raised by the Members are listed on Appendix 1 attached.

C/17/06

CATHAOIRLEACH'S SUMMARY

The Cathaoirleach suggested that after the Budget meeting a Service Manager's day be held to agree the work plan for the year, which would be reviewed at intervals and assessed at the following year's Budget Meeting. Directors and Chairs of S.P.C.'s are to be involved directly. This was agreed unanimously.

C/18/06

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1.50p.m. for lunch.

C/19/06

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

The meeting resumed at 3.55 p.m.

The County Manager addressed the meeting. He stated that since the meeting of the 13th of January, subsequent meetings with the Political Parties and during the adjournment he considered in detail all contributions from the Members. He said that all Directors in turn would respond to the matters raised by the Members.

The Directors of Services responded to all matters raised and undertook to write to Members on any matter omitted.

Mr Jim Holohan, Director of Services in Water, Environment and Emergency suggested that the Landfill Charge of €137.50 per tonne be retained for now until the Waste Management Plan is reviewed and an economic cost plan is done. To achieve the income targeted in the Draft Budget he proposed to increase the tonnage from 30,700 to 33,500.

He requested that the proposed increase in Water Charges be included at this point. However, a commitment was given by the County Manager that the order to increase charges would not be signed until Members were briefed on:

- (i). The Water Conservation Programme and
- (ii). Meetings take place with the big users

The Head of Finance outlined the implications of the proposals as set out by Jim Holohan. He also explained that a 1% reduction in the proposed Rate Increase amounted to a decrease in expenditure of €176,370 which could be effected in Administration and Miscellaneous Programme Group 8 and be found throughout all the Directorates in due course.

C/20/06

PROPOSAL

Cllr Francis Conaghan proposed the following:

- 3% increase in Commercial Rates which is 1% less than proposed. The reduction in expenditure of €176,370 is to be funded across all the Directorates with no impact on the current level of service.
- No increase in Landfill Charges. Work towards increasing the tonnage going to landfill while progressing the Recycling Programme through the new Waste Management Plan.
- Proposed increase in Water Rates to be put on hold until after the review of the Water Conservation Programme as well as assessing the impact on the big users. The County Manager to advise Members before making an order fixing the Water Charges increase.

Cllr Terence Slowey seconded this proposal.

AMENDMENTS

1st Amendment

The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Pearse Doherty and seconded by Cllr Pdraig MacLouchlainn:-

- 2.5% increase in Commercial Rates funded as follows:

€176,370 to be found in the reduction of expenditure provisions across all Directorates as well as €87,000 to be funded by way of a reduction in Members' Expenses from €5,000 to €2,000 per Member.

A recorded vote on the amendment resulted in 4 in favour and 22 against.

Those voting in favour were Councillors Pearse Doherty, Tony McDaid, Pdraig McLochlainn and Thomas Pringle.

Those voting against were Councillors David Alcorn, Liam Blaney, Alice Bonner, Enda Bonner, John Boyle, Ciaran Brogan, Brendan Byrne, Francis Conaghan, Gerry Crawford, Pdraig Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Jimmy Harte, Jonathan Kennedy, Dessie Larkin, Noel McBride, Sean McEniff, Denis McGonagle, Patrick McGowan, Bernard McGuinness, Brian O'Domhnaill, Barry O'Neill and Terence Slowey.

Cllr Ian McGarvey abstained.

The Cathaoirleach declared the amendment lost.

2nd Amendment

Cllr Ian McGarvey proposed that the Provision for Bad Debts be reduced by 50%.

Amendment not seconded.

A recorded vote was then taken on the motion resulting in 22 in favour and 4 against.

Those voting in favour were Councillors David Alcorn, Liam Blaney, Alice Bonner, Enda Bonner, John Boyle, Ciaran Brogan, Brendan Byrne, Francis Conaghan, Gerry Crawford, Padraig Doherty, Rena Donaghey, Jimmy Harte, Jonathan Kennedy, Dessie Larkin, Noel McBride, Sean McEniff, Denis McGonagle, Patrick McGowan, Bernard McGuinness, Brian O'Domhnaill, Barry O'Neill and Terence Slowey. Those voting against were Councillors Pearse Doherty, Tony McDaid, Padraig McLochlainn and Thomas Pringle.

Cllr Ian McGarvey abstained.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET

Proposed by: Councillor Francis Conaghan

Seconded by: Councillor Terence Slowey

and resolved "That Donegal County Council hereby adopt for the Financial year ended 31st December, 2006, the Budget set out in the Tables A and B resulting in an Annual Rate on Valuation of €69.85 as shown in Table B and the Budget of money demanded for the Town of Ballyshannon as set out in Table C resulting in an Annual Rate on Valuation of €3.06 as shown in column 7 of Table C".

C/21/06

DETERMINATION OF THE ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION

Proposed by: Councillor Francis Conaghan

Seconded by: Councillor Terence Slowey

and resolved "That Donegal County Council hereby determine, in accordance with the Budget now adopted, the rates set out in:

Table B = €69.85

Column (7) of Table C = €3.06

to be the Annual Rate on Valuation to be levied for the year ended 31st December, 2006 for the purpose set out in Table B and in Table C"

C/22/06 **COUNTY CHARGE**

Proposed by: Councillor Francis Conaghan
Seconded by: Councillor Terence Slowey
and resolved "That the sums set forth hereunder be demanded from
the Town Councils by way of County Charge for the services of the
year ended 31st December, 2006"

BUNCRANA:	€ 283,994
BUNDORAN:	€ 269,794
LETTERKENNY:	€1,880,000

C/23/06 **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

At the end of the meeting the Cathaoirleach complimented the
Members for supporting the adoption of the budget.