

WAIROA DISTRICT COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, Coronation Square, Wairoa on Tuesday, 14 July 2009 at 10.00am.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor Mr L Probert (Chairman)

COUNCILLORS

D Caves, D Eaglesome, J Heron, D Evans, B Cairns, B McKinnon

IN ATTENDANCE: P J Freeman (Chief Executive Officer)
N Cook (Engineering Manager)
R Snow (Finance Manager)
J Baty (Administration Manager)

CIVIC PRAYER

The civic prayer was given by Councillor Eaglesome.

APOLOGIES: Nil

CALLS FOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil

CALLS FOR ITEMS OF URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS NOT INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA AND NOTICES:

1. ADDITIONAL ITEM - Untreated Water Supplied To Domestic and Other Premises (CEO)
2. LATE ITEM - Amendment to Rate Differentials (Finance Manager)
3. Collaborative 'Rotational' Cadetship Programme (Engineering Manager)
4. Community Partnership Fund (CEO)
5. Maori Committee (Cr Heron)
6. Water Sampling (Cr Caves)

PUBLIC FORUM

His Worship the Mayor welcomed the public to the meeting and asked if there were any items they wished to bring to Council's attention.

WAIROA DIALYSIS SOCIETY INC

A20.01

The Wairoa Dialysis Society Inc, represented by Mr Gordon Preston, gave a presentation regarding their desire to set up a dialysis centre in Wairoa.

The relative isolation of Wairoa township from major centres of population and the lack of dialysis facilities in the town mean that the options for dialysis patients are to have home based facilities or to travel out of the district for treatment. In the Wairoa District there are currently ten patients who require machine dialysis. Four of those patients are based in Wairoa township itself and the others are in rural areas of the district. One patient from Raupunga has rented a house in Wairoa to be able to get home dialysis and two township based patients have home dialysis machines installed. Currently six out-of-town patients and two Wairoa township residents are travelling to Hastings for dialysis. Local medical advice is that there could be up to a further 18 patients requiring full dialysis in the Wairoa area over the next two years.

Health facilities for dialysis patients from the Wairoa District are at the DHB operated regional hospital in Hastings. The renal centre there is under redevelopment and operates continuously at full capacity to deal with patients from throughout the region. Apart from single machines in private houses for individual patients there are no dialysis facilities available closer than Hastings. Wairoa District patients who are resident outside of the township must travel to the dialysis facility at Hastings Hospital three times each week. This generally involves 2-3 hours travelling to Hastings, a spouse or parent travelling with the patient, waiting around for the patient for 5-6 hours then travelling 2-3 hours

home again. That needs to be done 3 separate days each week. The alternative is to relocate to Hastings in rented accommodation to attend the dialysis centre 3 days a week and get home once or twice a week or selling up in Wairoa and permanently relocating to Hastings.

Gisborne does not have a central dialysis facility either and patients living in areas without the necessary infrastructure in the Gisborne District need to travel to Hamilton, Tauranga or to the Hawke's Bay DHB facility at Hastings.

The presenter outlined the approximate costs involved for Wairoa people requiring treatment including travel and accommodation costs.

The vision is to set up a society managed by Wairoa dialysis patients and their families to establish a community dialysis centre where patients can carry out self treatment in a comfortable and affordable environment. It is envisaged that the society would set up a house which would have the plumbing, drainage and power reticulation to support 5-6 individual dialysis machines. Wairoa township based patients would be able to utilise the facilities as a communal gathering point for people with a common need and provide support for each other. The two patients who already have dialysis machines set up in their houses in Wairoa have indicated that they would be keen to have their machines shifted to a communal facility for the group support and fellowship it would bring.

The DHB staff from the Hastings Renal Centre have indicated that they would support the proposal because of the obvious benefits of local treatment of patients and reduced travelling. There is also the major benefit to their centre of reducing the demand overload they currently have. They would fit out the infrastructure for the machines just as if they were being put into individual patient homes. They would provide the training to allow individuals to self dialyse on the machines and would also supply the consumables and maintain the machines.

Deputy Mayor Denise Eaglesome said there was more to the issue than just the financial implications for local families, she noted that there is the emotional impact as well.

Councillor Heron enquired as to other sources of funding in terms of the long-term future of the project. Mr Preston noted the other potential funding avenues available for the project. He advised that the Society believed the need for a centre was so great that they have been scouting for funding and have called a public meeting for Thursday, 10.30am at St Peter's Hall on Queen Street.

The financial forecasting included in the handout was then discussed.

His Worship the Mayor thanked the society for their presentation and commented that it was a problem for the whole community and that Council would discuss the matter. He added that the timing was unfortunate as Council had just considered the submissions to the 2009-2019 LTCCP.

General Items

BLAKE FAMILY - OFFICIAL STATEMENT

B01.08.01

His Worship the Mayor read the following statement.

On behalf of the Wairoa District Council, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Blake family in offering land for use in the Mahia Community Wastewater Scheme. While Council has decided not to make use of the Kaiwaitau land, we appreciate the positive attitude of the family in helping their community move towards a healthier, sustainable environment.

Resolved: *That the statement be received.*

McKinnon/Caves

REPRESENTATION REVIEW & APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL OFFICER

A10.01

The Administration Manager spoke to the report. He noted that there must at all times be an Electoral Officer appointed by the local authority to exercise the powers and carry out the duties conferred on the Electoral Officer by the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the Act).

Moreover, local authorities are required to review their representation arrangements at least every six years. Council's last review was conducted in 2003.

As defined by the Act, representation reviews are reviews of the particular representation arrangements for a local authority. In the case of territorial authorities, they include the basis of election (at large, wards or a mix of both) and establishment of community boards. The review determines for each local authority the detailed arrangements on the number of electoral subdivisions (if any), their boundaries, names and number of members.

The Administration Manager noted that Council currently has no wards and comprises of six (6) Councillors (plus the Mayor) elected at large using the first past the post (FPP) electoral system. Community boards are not currently constituted in the District.

He also highlighted that Council resolved at its Ordinary Meeting of 9 September 2008 to maintain the status quo of first past the post (FPP) and to publicly notify the right for 5% of electors to demand a poll on the electoral system. This was published by 19 September 2008 as required. Electors of the Wairoa District Council had until 16 December 2008 to demand a poll on the electoral system to be used at the next triennial local elections which will be held in October 2010.

Council's Finance Manager (Russell Snow) is currently the Electoral Officer but wishes to vacate this position as the timing of the triennial local election clashes with his commitments relating to the preparation of the Annual Report.

Council discussed at length the various options relating to its representation arrangements.

The Chief Executive Officer mentioned the various submissions received as part of the LTCCP process that requested a return to the wards system.

Councillor Cairns in supporting the status quo noted a number of concerns with a ward based system, for example, often there was little voter choice as not many people put themselves forward for election and in some instances people would go through uncontested in some wards. She also felt that community boards were not necessary as our population was so small and the level of communication between Council and the public was at a good level and improving. She cited Wairoa In Focus and the increased number of submissions received in the LTCCP process as evidence of this.

Councillor Caves supported maintaining this status quo as he believes the current system works. Councillor Evans supported this view.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the report be received.</i>	Cairns/Evans
<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That Council appoints the Administration Manger (James Baty) as the Electoral Officer pursuant to section 12(1) of the Local Electoral Act 2001.</i>	Caves/Heron
<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That Council retains the status quo of 6 members elected at large from the District, and the Mayor.</i>	Eaglesome/Heron
<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That no community boards be constituted.</i>	Eaglesome/Heron
<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That Council publicly notifies the preferred electoral representation option and other relevant matters on or before the 8 September 2009.</i>	His Worship the Mayor/McKinnon

DELEGATION – LIMITED NOTIFICATION RESOURCE CONSENTS

D01.10

The Chief Executive Officer spoke to the report noting the particular difficulties resulting from Council's previous decision on this matter.

In this regard, he advised that the changes to the delegations have had the following effects:

1. The current system has no oversight by the Chief Executive Officer nor will he be accountable for any decisions made under this delegation.
2. The system relies on the availability of the Chairperson of the Committee.
3. The Chairman is now required to approve all consents, 99% of which are routine.

The Chief Executive Officer referred to the various options and analysis thereof.

Councillors McKinnon and Cairns supported the recommendation.

Councillor Caves stated that the previous decision was well debated and believed that that decision should stand.

His Worship the Mayor highlighted that the recommendation was supported by the Chair of the Resource Management Committee.

Council discussed the matter further before reaching a decision.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That Council adopt the following Policy in relation to Delegations to Staff for Resource Consents:</i>
	<i>That the Chief Executive Officer, District Planner, Chairman of the Resource Management Committee be given delegated authority, subject to that authority only being exercised by a minimum of any two (2) meeting in agreement, to:</i>
	<i>(a) Consider and make decisions on resource consent applications:</i>
	<i>i. not requiring notification in accordance with Section 94 of the Act; or</i>
	<i>ii. requiring notification in accordance with Section 94 of the Act but where nosubmissions opposing the application are received</i>
	<i>iii. in the case of "Notified" applications to which there have been no objections or all objections are satisfied, the Report must be countersigned by the Chairperson of the Resource Management Committee.</i>
	<i>McKinnon/Heron</i>

UNTREATED WATER SUPPLIED TO DOMESTIC AND OTHER PREMISES

I07.01

The Chief Executive Officer noted that the report was self-explanatory. The recommendation is made with particular reference to the current body of knowledge on safe drinking water and Council's legal and moral obligations to enhance the health of its residents. The cost of installing domestic water treatment facilities is just a small fraction of the total cost of building or renovating/additions to a home but have a large impact on the well being of persons using these premises.

He further noted that the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards 2005 revised in October 2008 define "Potable Water" as "Drinking water that does not contain or exhibit any determinant to any extent that exceeds the maximum acceptable values specified in the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (NZDWS)".

The standard does not require a particular system just one that meets the standard.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the report be received and that Council endorses the continued application of its Policy on Drinking Water outside treated drinking water supply areas as adopted in October 2006.</i>
	<i>Eaglesome/Evans</i>

ADJOURNED: 11:10 AM
RECONVENED: 11.20 AM

AMENDMENT TO RATE DIFFERENTIALS

F01.25

Resolved: *That in accordance with Section 46A (7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act the item **AMENDMENT TO RATE DIFFERENTIALS** be considered given the item had not come to hand at the time of Agenda compilation and consideration of this matter is required now in order to respond within the time frame allowed.* **Caves/Heron**

Resolved: *That the report be received.* **Heron/McKinnon**

The Finance Manager spoke to the report noting in particular the concerns relating to the rates differential for commercial properties with capital values under \$200,000.

The Finance Portfolio-holders have reviewed the differentials in the urban area. At present commercial properties under \$200,000 capital value have a differential of 3.5 on all targeted rates, whereas commercial properties over \$200,000 have a differential of 3.5 for general, roading and stormwater/drainage rates, but have a differential of 2.5 for services and recreation rates.

The report proposed that the services and recreation rates be reduced to 2.5 for all commercial properties. This will have the effect of reducing the commercial rates for those properties with a capital value of less than \$200,000. It will increase the rating on commercial properties with a capital value in excess of \$200,000 and will increase average residential rates by approximately 1% from 5.9% to 6.9%. Higher value urban properties will increase by up to 1.5% to 10.7%.

Under section 101(1) a local authority must manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general financial dealings prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community. Also, Council is required to consider the impact on the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well being of the community.

Councillor Heron noted that this situation arose following Council's decision to allocate a further \$100,000 (approximate) to various activities in the LTCCP process. He further noted that this allocation has resulted in some inequity which Council should remedy by way of an adjustment to differentials as outlined in the report.

The Finance Manager then outlined the options - the status quo option, and the option of changing the rates differentials as outlined above.

The Chief Executive Officer noted that if Council decided to proceed with the adjustment to the differentials it would by default cause an amendment to the LTCCP which Council is yet to adopt. So the timing was somewhat fortuitous.

Resolved: *That Council change the rate differentials for the services and recreation rates in the funding impact statement of the final LTCCP 2009-19 from 3.5 to 2.5 for commercial properties with capital values under \$200,000* **Heron/Eaglesome**

DOCUMENTS SEALED FOR THE PERIOD FROM 6 MAY 2009 TO 12 JUNE 2009

The Schedule of Documents sealed for the period 6 May 2009 to 12 June 2009 was presented.

Resolved: *That the report be received.* **Evans/Cairns**

Receipt/Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Council Meetings

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD 9 JUNE 2009

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 June 2009 were presented.

<u>Resolved:</u>	<i>That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 June 2009 be confirmed as correct.</i>	Eaglesome/Evans
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General Business

COLLABORATIVE 'ROTATIONAL' CADETSHIP PROGRAMME

The Engineering Manager provided a complete overview of the process to date.

He noted that a workshop had taken place regarding a possible framework for the cadet selection process. He then outlined the results of the workshop for Council and asked for their input.

The following scenario was put forward for discussion:

Within the Wairoa College Environment:

1. Expressions of interest.
2. Preliminary assessment.
3. College to advise committee of their findings and recommendations.

Committee:

1. Shortlist candidates (three feasible).
2. Provide aptitude test, report back to committee.
3. Confirm shortlist of candidates.
4. Interviews.
5. Specific employers requirements

Considerable discussion took place.

Councillors Heron and Cairns enquired as to whether the cadetship would be available to people outside of Wairoa College. The Engineering Manager noted that that was something for discussion and something that was also discussed at the workshop.

Councillor Eaglesome noted that the cadetship was likely to be funded by a WINZ subsidy scheme and she was unsure as to whether this funding would be available to people who are not at Wairoa College. She surmised that it possibly wouldn't be.

His Worship the Mayor supported the programme being available to students at Wairoa College. He noted that there are various scholarships only available to specific schools and this was an example of something specific for Wairoa College and he believed it was important for Council to support its local and only secondary school. This view was supported by the Chief Executive Officer.

It was noted that if the programme could not be filled via the College that perhaps at that point it could be opened up.

Councillor Cairns was concerned that this fallback provision would suggest that Wairoa did not have the talent to fill the programme. In this regard, Councillor Eaglesome stated that she didn't believe Wairoa would have any problems filling the cadetship locally.

ADJOURNED: 12:20 PM
RECONVENED: 12.45 PM

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

A24.01.12

The Chief Executive Officer read a letter from the Department of Internal Affairs advising that the Digital Strategy Steering Group (DSSG) has considered the comprehensive application for the Community Partnership Fund (CPF) 2008/09 and has approved funding of \$314,817 for 130 families to be trained through the Computers in Homes - Wairoa Senior Citizens' project.

The Chief Executive Officer outlined the background to this project and the nature of the partnership that runs it.

Council suggested that a story via Wairoa In Focus would be ideal.

MAORI COMMITTEE

A28.01

Councillor Heron sought clarification as to whether Councillors should attend the Kahui Marae meeting in August regarding Council's Maori Policy and Maori Committee.

The Chief Executive Officer and Administration Manager provided a brief update of the process and noted that the meeting was public in nature and therefore anyone could attend per se.

The Chief Executive Officer took the opportunity to update Council on matters relating to Ngati Pahauwera and indicated that Council staff had been working well with key stakeholders on matters of importance such as the co-management of the Mohaka River which forms part of the Ngati Pahauwera settlement.

COUNCIL FORUM

A06.09.03

Council decided to cancel the next Public Forum given the number of apologies received.

If any particular matters required discussion, Council could raise these at its next meeting on 23 July 2009 (meeting to adopt the 2009-2019 LTCCP).

WATER SAMPLING

I07.07

In referring to the Information Pack Councillor Caves sought clarification as to the water sampling in Tuai.

The Chief Executive Officer clarified that two of the District Council's remote water supplies (Tuai/Mahanga) have been maintained by means of regular water samples to facilitate compliance with the New Zealand Drinking Water Standards. The sampling schedule which has been compiled will continue to operate for a further six (6) months until the end of the year after which it will be necessary to compile a further schedule using the Ministry of Health's Water Information New Zealand (WINZ) programme. In its annual report the Hawke's Bay District Health Board has acknowledged that these two supplies complied with the NZDWS.

ADJOURNED: 1:25 PM
RECONVENED: 2.35 PM

Exclusion of the Public

Resolved: That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded on the following grounds:

That the exclusion of the public from the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in:

S7 (2)(b) Protect information where the making available of the information-

- (i) Would disclose a trade secret; or
- (ii) Would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;

McKinnon/Heron

RE-ADMITTED: 2.35 PM

RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

A06.09

The following resolutions were approved for release.

ORMOND DR. – RUAWHARAWHARA URUPA DEVIATION

B03.02.06.15 & F01.25

Resolved: That Council proceed with investigations into option 6A (domain reserve with new rail crossing) as regards the Ormond Dr. – Ruawharawhara Urupa Deviation.

Heron/McKinnon

MAHIA COMMUNITY WASTEWATER SCHEME

B01.08 & F01.25

- Resolved:**
1. That Council notes the letter from the Minister of Health which seeks to ensure that the funding for the SWSS is used as soon as is practicable to ensure best value for money and enable the effective management of the Health Vote and the related requirements referred to in his correspondence.
 2. That the Engineering Manger proceed with the Mahia Community Wastewater Scheme as previously decided in Council's LTCCP 2009-2019 deliberations noting the financial implications associated with the specified timeframes outlined in the Minister of Health's correspondence.

His Worship the Mayor/Heron

WAIROA DIALYSIS SOCIETY INC

- Resolved:**
1. That the Chief Executive Officer write to the DHB advocating for the establishment of a dialysis centre in Wairoa
 2. That the Mayor provide a letter of support to go with future funding applications made by the Wairoa Dialysis Society Inc.
 3. That Council provides a rates remission for the dialysis centre when it is established.

His Worship the Mayor/Heron

There being no further General Business, the His Worship the Mayor, declared the meeting closed:

CLOSED: The meeting closed at **2.37 PM**

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Chair