

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WANGANUI RATING DISTRICT HELD AT THE HARI HARI MOTOR HOTEL, HARI HARI ON WEDNESDAY, 3 MAY 2000 COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.

PRESENT

R. Berry, A. Sullivan, C. Lucas, G. Constable, P. Denham, R. Willis, F. Ross, N. Adamson, M. Hayes, J. Stewart, B. McGrath, B. Adamson, A. Campbell, T. Arnold, B. Thomson, R. Cunniffe

IN ATTENDANCE

West Coast Regional Council

J. Clayton, B. Duckett & D. Davidson (Councilors)
R. Lowe & W. Moen (Staff)

APOLOGIES

J. Sullivan, A. Bull.

BUSINESS

B. Duckett opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

Moved: *“That the minutes of the previous Annual General meeting held on 4 May 1999, be adopted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.”*

N. Adamson/R. Berry - Carried

MATTERS ARISING

W. Moen read out the letter sent to the LAPP fund expressing the Rating District's dissatisfaction and seeking clarification of the trigger point.

He also pointed out that the capital works component had been withdrawn from the Asset Management Plan, and that the Maintenance Rate in the document, had been reduced to \$93,000 per year with a 3-year assessment period.

R. Lowe and J. Clayton spoke on the LAPP response and outlined the \$30,000 premium payable in the event of a successful application for monies from the scheme.

B. Thomson enquired if the Rating District could withdraw from the LAPP Scheme and then return later.

R. Lowe doubted that this could occur, however if it was acceptable to LAPP, a “buy back” clause would need to be enforced, as other rating districts on the West Coast would have to pay an increased excess fee.

R. Berry pointed out that it was costing the Wanganui Rating District over \$40,000 in a 5 year period.

N. Adamson felt that the rules and guidelines governing the LAPP Fund were very vague.

J. Clayton elaborated on the review LAPP was undertaking reflecting the position of Regional Authorities and the rural assets.

FINANCIAL MINUTES

W. Moen presented the financial statements for the 1998/1999 financial year and the 6-month transitional period from 1 July 1999 to 31 December 1999.

Moved: ***“That the Financial Reports for both the 1998/1999 financial year and the six monthly transitional period ending 31 December 1999 be adopted.”***

L. Molloy/ N. Adamson – Carried

MATTERS ARISING

The low level of the 6 – monthly LAPP payment was queried.

R. Lowe explained that there been a slight reduction in LAPP premiums.

N. Adamson stated that the drain behind the Township had not been cleaned out.

Staff pointed out that if it had not been done, it would be completed next time the contractor was in the area.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved: ***“That R. Berry be re-elected as spokesperson for the Rating District for the 2000/2001 financial year.”***

L. Molloy/ A. Campbell – Carried

Moved: ***“That the present committee be retained for the 2000/2001-03-07 financial year.”***

R. Cunniffe/ G. Constable

Note: The current committee being: N. Adamson, A. Campbell, R. Berry, G. Muir, L. Molloy, J. Sullivan, R. Cunniffe

J. Clayton asked if the original rotation system was in place, as this ensured continuing local knowledge being retained. This was affirmed by those present.

RATES STRIKE 2000/2001

R. Berry opened the debate on the proposed rate strike by suggesting that rate relief should be considered, given the “healthy” state of the Rating District balance.

He suggested a possible 25% reduction in the rate strike.

He also pointed out that it should be considered a “one –off” situation and warned of being “shortsighted” in the longer term.

L. Molloy supported R. Berry’s view and said that he could not justify the full rate of \$83,000 this coming year.

He pointed out that each year should be considered on its merits and the rating district should not be “locked in” to a finite amount each year.

M. Hayes spoke against any rate strike and asked if the rates could be reduced to \$50,000 given the savings in the LAPP premium.

Moved: ***“That the rates strike for the 2000/2001 financial year be set at \$62,000 + GST.”***

R. Berry/ C. Lucas – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

J. Stewart sought information on the state of the quarry access road.

R. Lowe explained that the Council were “holding off” to see if the erosion cycle in the area was slowing.

J. Clayton asked that the whole access question be urgently investigated to ensure future access.

L. Molloy asked if the weighbridge stockpile was to be retained at a constant amount.

R. Lowe explained that it should be kept at 6000 tonnes to cover all situations.

He also pointed out that a reimbursement of 1,000 tonnes (\$5,000) was to be made to the rating district.

R. Berry spoke on the proposed reclassification and said that the land values were still required.

R. Lowe pointed out that with the split between the Wanganui and Poerua Rating Districts some of the values changed.

L. Molloy felt that the original Order-in-Council was incorrect. He felt that objections could be made after the public notice notification.

T. Arnold gave his views on the proposed balance of rates

B. Thomson felt that there was a lack of communication between the Council and the ratepayers over the proposed reclassification.

R. Lowe outlined the Special Order process and the background at arriving at the current recommended figures.

There was general consensus that a general clarification of the proposals, in laymen's terms, be made, so that all concerned could understand the situation

J. Clayton felt that a letter of explanation could be sent to all ratepayers may help.

J. Stewart asked for a breakdown of the various classes and the total percentages.

D. Davidson thought that the result was satisfactory

R. Lowe outlined the classification and compared the old system with the new one.

B. Duckett, in closing, suggested that a complete explanation of the figures, formulas and simple examples be made and R. Berry asked for an indication as to timeframes for objections.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Wayne Moen
Senior Engineering Officer
For
R.J. Lowe
Operations Manager

