

MINUTES OF BOYLE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, ROSCOMMON ON MONDAY THE 6th OCTOBER, 2014. AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Eugene Murphy, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: V. Byrne. J. Cummins, R. Doherty, M. Mulligan.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillor M. Hopkins.

OFFICIALS: Martin Lydon, Head of Finance and Planning.
Fiona ni Chuinn, Meetings Administrator.

6.14. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins
SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the AGM held on 12.6.2014.

7.14. MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS – DRAFT BUDGET 2015:

Martin Lydon, Head of Finance & Planning informed the members that the Local Government Act 2001 Section 102, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides the legislative basis for the revised budget process. The Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District is prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive and submitted for consideration by the Municipal District Members for each Municipal District in the manner and in the format that may be prescribed by regulations made by the Minister.”

The Draft Budgetary Plan refers to discretionary funding only but includes grant funding that is allocated to the Municipal District. In producing the Draft Budgetary Plan the following was considered:

1. The needs of, and the resources available or likely to be made available to the Local Authority
2. Resource needs of each Municipal District, including where appropriate, kilometre of roads and the number of houses.

The purpose of a Draft Budgetary Plan is to provide each Municipal District with an opportunity to allocate its proportion of the General Municipal Allocation according to its priorities.

The Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 state that Members of the Municipal District must receive a copy of the Draft Budgetary Plan and

notice of the meeting of Municipal District Members 7 days prior to that meeting. The meeting of Municipal District Members to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan must conclude no later than 21 days prior to the Local Authority Budget Meeting. **There is no provision for the adjournment of this meeting.**

He continued that, following the adoption of the Local Authority Budget, a schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out during 2015 in each Municipal District will be prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive, having regard to the availability of resources.

The Schedule of Municipal District Works will be considered by the Municipal District Members concerned and be adopted by resolution, with or without amendment. In making an amendment, the Municipal District Members shall have due regard to the Local Authority Budget adopted in accordance with section 103(9).

The General Municipal Allocation (the total for the three Municipal Districts) totals €13,854,300. This amount contains €12,578,000 which is in relation to Road Transport and Safety, with the balance of €1,276,300 distributed to Housing and Building, Public Conveniences, Property Management, Maintenance of Burial Grounds, Open Spaces and Land Drainage.

The local roads contribution is €1,262,700 (this figure was €1,187,700 in 2014) from the Roads Transport and Safety amount, with €75,000 made available for hedge trimming and grass cutting and a further €60,000 allocated for lighting in estates not yet taken in charge, for which a new policy is required.

The remainder of the roads funding is grant funded and is in line with what was agreed and approved by members in the 2014 road works scheme and so is not transferable. However, as in previous years members will have an active role in deciding where work should be undertaken when the 2015 road works scheme is being adopted.

The General Municipal District Allocation for Boyle €5,935,600.

It should be noted that in allocating the budgets, members need to be cognisant of the fact that staff costs will need to be met. So, if for example costs are transferred from housing to roads, the staff costs and resources would also need to transfer.

Members welcomed the report and raised the following issues:

- Queried the meaning of an 'active role'
- Need to liaise with the Area Engineer to decide what roads will be included in the Roads Programme.
- Need to prioritise the monies in the 2014 budget for hedge trimming from now until the end of the year.
- Need to have public lighting installed in 'ghost estates'.
- With the onset of dark evenings there is a need to tackle the issue of public lighting in housing estates not working.
- Need for two senior Engineers in the Boyle Municipal District as the area is a very big one.

- Will NRA have any power at Municipal District level.
- Members need an update on the staff changes in Area Offices.
- Need to be a response system in place when new structures are introduced

Martin Lydon responded to queries raised –

- Councillors will have an input into where funds are spent in the Schedule of Works Programme.
- Need for a policy on public lighting as funding is for replacement of bulbs only.
- Area Engineer under the new structure will be attending Municipal District Meetings.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Cummins.

SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan.

That there would be an understanding with all engineering staff in the Municipal Districts that decisions can be made by the assistant Engineer - in the absence of the Senior Executive Engineer.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Doherty

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Boyle Municipal District Draft Budget 2015 as circulated.

8.14. ROADS ACT, 1993, SECTION 11 & ROADS REGULATIONS 1994, PART 2 – DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS –

- **Road located within housing development at “Lakeview”, Warren or Drum Td, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.**

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Mulligan

It was **AGREED** that the road located within the housing development at “Lakeview”, Warren or Drum Td., Boyle, Co. Roscommon be declared a public road.

- ***Road located within housing development at “College Park”, Termon Td, Ross Lane, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.***

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the road located within the housing development at “College Park”, Termon Td., Ross Lane, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, be declared a public road.

9.14. ADOPTION OF DRAFT MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS STANDING ORDERS - 2014 – 2019:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Mulligan
SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Municipal Districts Standing Orders – 2014 – 2019 as circulated.

10.14. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to:

Devenish Nutrition, Con McGarry and the local people who were responsible for the great success of the International Sheepdog Trials 2014 which took place in Kilbegnet recently.

11.14. VOTES OF SYMPATHY were extended to:

The Maye family, Cortober, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, on the death of Peter Maye.

15.14. A.O.B.

Steam Roller:

Councillor Mulligan queried the whereabouts of the Steam Roller which used to be in the Car Park of the Courthouse.

John O'Rourke, Acting Director of Services, responded that it is being restored at present and will be placed in the new Civic Offices when work on same is fully completed

Development Contribution Scheme Meeting:

The date for the meeting on the Development Contribution Scheme has been fixed for the 6th November at 10.00 a.m. in the Strokestown Area Office.

Irish Water.

Members expressed their frustration over the difficulties in getting information from Irish Water who are not communicating with Councillors and are finding it impossible to get answers when queries are raised about specific schemes or issues. Councillors may be waiting several weeks for a response. The Irish Water call centre staff do not appear to be properly briefed and are not in a position to respond to many of the queries raised.

Members welcomed the €16m. commitment to Schemes but queried how the old pipe network will be upgraded.

Martin Lydon confirmed that Roscommon County Council is locked into a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water for 12 years and must work towards the Transformation Plan as laid down by Irish Water including customer contact systems. He continued that any works carried out by Roscommon County Council in relation to water must be approved by Irish Water prior to commencement of any works.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Murphy

SECONDED by Councillor Cummins

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Minister for the Environment and Irish Water expressing complete dissatisfaction when trying to make contact by phone with Irish Water.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Doherty

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to Irish Water requesting that phased payment facilities be put in place for applicants seeking to connect to the new regional schemes.

Signage:

Councillor Byrne highlighted that while on the recent By- Election campaign people were complaining that they are not being allowed to put up signage to promote their business.

Martin Lydon responded that there is a Signage Policy in place and he has recently been given the role to get a group together from the roads and planning department to examine the policy and hopefully strive for a balance.

Taking in Charge of Estates:

Councillor Cummins queried how a development may be taken in charge.

Martin Lydon confirmed that if the majority of residents wish to have their estate taken in charge and there is no enforcement action outstanding on the development they may apply to Roscommon County Council to have the estate taken in charge.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned