

Minutes January 2010

Minutes of Budget Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 11th January, 2010 at 7.00pm in the Mall House, Youghal. -----

Present: Mayor Sandra McLellam presided. Cllrs. Linehan Foley, Revins, Coyne, Burke, Daly, Hennessy, Beecher and Murray.

Officials Present: Mrs. Patricia Power, Town Manager.

Mr. Liam Ryan, Town Clerk.

Mrs. Helen Mulcahy, Staff Officer.

Opening Prayers: The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

Manager's Report and Budget 2010 In accordance with the provision of the Local Government Act, 2001,

The Manager presented her Budget showing the amounts which she considered necessary to meet the expenses and provide for the liabilities of the Council for the financial year ending 31/12/2010.

The following is the Managers Report:

Preparing a Budget for consideration and adoption by Council has been a very difficult task. The impact for reductions in income in 2009, in particular reductions in the Local Government Fund and Non National Road Grants, required budget cuts to be found already in 2009.

The general economic climate and state of the national finances have severely impacted on the options available in 2010. The Council's own resources continue to be under severe pressure and are expected to deteriorate again in 2010.

The rate of decline in national and local finances had been unprecedented and as a result the Council Budget expenditure is proposed to reduce from €4.19m in 2009 to €4.12m in 2010. The scale of the task is apparent when an analysis of expenditure shows 'discretionary' expenditure is estimated at €660,000 or 16% of revenue expenditure.

In the years when the economy was growing rapidly, Youghal Town Council met the challenge of delivering increased demand for services and oversaw rapid growth in delivering infrastructure programmes.

The significant change in economic conditions means that Youghal Town Council must now manage very scarce resources and deliver core services at lower cost. A key budgetary strategy is to maintain where practicable all charges at 2009 levels or in the case of Commercial rates, at the 2008 level. This is a significant contribution to costs of business in 2010 when you consider the scale of income deterioration being experienced by the Council. Much has been achieved in 2009 in making Youghal Town Council an even leaner and more cost effective organisation and

this work is continuing. However, the reductions in income encountered in 2009 and anticipated in 2010 will mean that improved efficiency alone will not be sufficient to balance the budget and significant reductions across all areas of activity will be required.

The Budget was prepared taking into account the anticipated income from all sources and allocating the available income to fund the level of services that such an income can sustain.

Payroll Costs and Staff Numbers: Staff numbers have been reduced from a high of 30 in the summer of 2008 to a current level of 22. Maintaining service delivery following these reductions will be extremely difficult if not impossible in 2010.

Local Government Fund: The Local Government Fund for 2010 is expected to be €1.09m. This is a reduction of €110,000 or 9.5% on the initial allocation for 2009. Income from the Non Principle Private Residence charge should offset a portion of this reduction.

Commercial Rates: It is fully acknowledged that Commercial Rates is a significant cost to all business and in the current economic climate Youghal Town Council must be mindful that any increase could have a detrimental effect on commercial activity. In this regard there was no increase in the annual rate of Valuation for 2009. Given the current state of the economy and in particular the lack of availability of credit for business the rate income for 2010 is predicted to reduce. Consequently, I have included a provision of €350,000 for irrecoverable rates and no rate increase for a second year in a row.

Non Principle Private Residence (NPPR) charge: The new funding from the NPPR is a very welcome source of income for Local Authorities. Its introduction in 2009 has resulted in approximately €31,000 being collected locally.

The National Budget has not indicated that the charge for 2010 will increase. The operative date for declaration purposes for 2010 will be the 31st March and a penalty of €20 per month for late payment will apply.

Other Income Sources:

During 2009 income from many of the Council's own resources was subject to significant reduction. In areas where income is related to activity such as planning fees income is estimated to reduce to a level below the 2001 Budget provision.

Non National Road Grants: During 2009 the Council was advised of €110,000 reduction in its Non National Roads Grant from €287,000 in 2008 to €177,000. A figure of €177,000 has been assumed for the 2010.

Budget. Housing: Allocations 2009:

6 New Build Local Authority Houses, 6 Part V Houses, 14 Casual Vacancies. New Developments: Developments are in progress in Seafield (24), Ard Calladh (5), and the Estuary (3) and it is hoped to complete and allocate these houses in 2010.

Maintenance: The level of maintenance requests for 2009 was in excess of 248 valid requests logged for the year. These included emergency, urgent and routine repairs.

Central Heating:

The 2009 Central Heating Programme is now virtually complete. Central Heating was installed in circa 35 units during the year and remedial works carried out in a further 38. This programme,

though much reduced, will continue in 2010. Road Transportation and Safety: The issue of safety in carrying out road works was again given high priority in 2009 and will continue to be prioritised in 2010. Significant training of staff under Health and Safety legislation was carried out. In particular a large number of roads staff have completed the three day 'Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Road Works' course. Since the 6th July 2009 at least one member of any team carrying out road works has to have this certification. Major changes are expected over the next number of years in the provision and maintenance of public lighting. These have implications for all local authorities. Not least is the fact that the ESB ceased its involvement in public lighting late in 2009 and Cork County Council is in the process of making alternative arrangements for the maintenance of public lighting.

In preparation of these changes Cork County Council commenced the preparation of a full Geographical Information System (GIS) in 2009 of its public lighting stock. This includes digitally mapping and positions of all lights. This will continue in 2010.

2010 Road Works Programme:

1. The Heritage Regeneration Project will continue to be rolled out in 2010 at Emmet Place subject of course to funding. (see proposed capital programme)
2. The Members will decide during the Spring on the distribution and prioritisation of works under the Non National Roads Grant 2010.

Service Provision:

Given that the total expenditure has reduced significantly over the 2009 level then funds available for the provision of services are reduced. Some of the reduction is due to the lowering of pay levels but significant non payroll reductions to expenditure are also necessary. Though 2010 provides a significant challenge I am confident that Youghal Town Council will continue to provide valuable services to the people of Youghal. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and co-operation of both staff and members in delivering services in 2009.

Staff of the Council have and will experience significant reductions to their income for 2009 and 2010 while the demand for services they provide continues to need to be met. I continue to be impressed by their commitment to the community they serve. However, there is a limit to what can be reasonably expected of staff who are committed to the service of Youghal Town Council. I have no doubt that we can in partnership face the very difficult challenges of 2010 and beyond. The preparation of the 2010 Budget required the special effort of Mr. Liam Ryan and Mrs. Helen Mulcahy and I would like to thank them for their effort.

I want to thank the Town Mayor, Cllr. Sandra McLellan and her predecessor Cllr. Oliver Casey for their assistance and support.

The Manager's Budget for 2010 was summarised as follows with the sum to be raised in rates amounting to €1,393,218 which would require a rateable valuation multiplier of €65.97.

The effective valuation used is €21,119.00 Expenditure Income Net Expenditure € € € 1. Housing & Building: 460,419 953,722 -493,303

- 2.Road Transportation & Safety 576,133 335,250 240,883
- 3.Water Services 277,659 5,500 272,159
- 4.Development Management 351,304 110,250 241,054
- 5.Environmental Services 499,345 70,750 428,595
- 6.Recreation & Amenity 449,027 13,256 435,771
- 7.Agricultural & Education 35,550 - 35,550
- 8.Miscellaneous Services 730,808 147,331 583,477

Total 3,380,245 1,636,059 1,744,186

Local Government Fund = €1,090,968

County Charge = €740,000.

The members unanimously thanked the Manager, the Town Clerk and staff for all their work and help throughout the year. The Draft Budget 2009 for Youghal Town Council as presented by the Manager was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Linehan Foley, seconded by Cllr. Murray and unanimously agreed by the members of the Council. The General Annual Rate on Valuation in the sum of €65.97 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Murray, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously agreed by the members of the Council

PROPOSED 3 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Manager presented the Members with the proposed 3 Year Capital Programme for their consideration and approval:- 2010:

- a) Complete Seafield/Killeagh Road Housing Scheme: €175,000 Funded by Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (100%).
- b) Stage 2 Works on Town Walls. €150,000 Funded by: Heritage Council Grant (90%) Youghal Town Council (10%)
- c) Complete Emmet Place Public Realm Scheme: €140,000 Funded by: National Roads Authority. Heritage Regeneration Fund. Development Contributions.
- d) Investigate the possibility of: Developing Additional Sites at Knockaverry for sale on open market to fund capital projects in 2011/2012. €20,000 Funded by: Sale of additional sties. e) Continue Estate Enhancement Schemes: €30,000 Funded by: Rapid (50%) Youghal Town Council (50%) (If funding is made available).
- f) Complete the Purchase of Part V Houses at Ard Caladh and The Estuary if funding is made available.

Funded by:

Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government (100%). €1.6m. 2011:

- a) Continue Estate Enhancement Schemes: €20,000 Funded by: Rapid (50%) Youghal Town Council (50%) (If funding is made available).
- b) Stage one of : €10,000 Developing Additional Sites at Knockaverry for Sale on Open Market to Fund Capital Projects in 2011/2012. Funded by: Sale of additional sties.

c) Stage 3 of Works on Town Walls. €150,000 Funded by: Heritage Council Grant (90%) Youghal Town Council (10%)

d) Complete Fairfield Car Park/North Gate as per Public Realm Plan. €250,000 Funded by: National Roads Authority. Heritage Regeneration Fund. Development Contributions Fund. (Subject to funding availability).

2012:

a) Continue Estate Enhancement Schemes: €20,000 Funded by: Rapid (50%) Youghal Town Council (50%) (If funding is made available).

b) Stage 4 of Works on Town Walls. €100,000 Funded by: Heritage Council Grant (90%) Youghal Town Council (10%) (Subject to funding availability).

c) Stage 1 of DeValera Street Project as per Public Realm Plan. Funded by: National Roads Authority. Heritage Regeneration Fund. Development Contributions. (Subject to funding availability).

Please note that years 2011 and 2012 will be reviewed in December 2010 to determine funding and project viability.

Other projects may be initiated over the 3 year timeframe where at the moment funding is unavailable.

The programme can be updated annually. The proposed 3 Year Capital Programme was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Murray, seconded by Cllr. Revins and unanimously agreed by the members of the Council ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008 The Manager presented the Members with the Audited Annual Financial Statement 2008 and the Auditors Report on same for their consideration and approval:- The Annual Financial Statement 2008 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Beecher seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously agreed by the members of the Council

This concluded the business of the meeting.