

Whangarei District Council Finance and Support Committee meeting - 28th September 2011

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This month's Finance meeting started at 0900hrs with Cr Warwick Syers in the chair wishing all a good morning and welcoming those present.

There were no apologies. *I did hear Warwick say it was a 'Phil Halse' but it was a Full House that he said hence no apologies.*

Item No. 1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and Support Committee held 24 August 2011. (0900hrs) these were received with no discussion required.

Item No. 2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held 14 September 2011. (0900hrs) these also were received with no discussion required.

Item No. 3. Financial Report for the month ending 31 August 2011 was received with the time at 0901hrs.

Cr Warwick Syers handed over to Group Manager Support Services Alan Adcock to give a brief. Alan explained that they were still ironing out issues with the reports. *Is that where the debt keeps rising? Easily fixed stop spending!*

In the new format he advised that figures in brackets () are good and the middle column is Year to Date (pages 7 - 21) not 'Actual Month2 \$000'

Couldn't help but notice (page 22) that the debt is \$147,000,000-00 (\$147 Million) with an extra \$7.8 million Internal borrowing (debt). So much for the \$130 million everyone promised. Out of control eh?

Alan advised that \$25mill of debt was due for re financed and they were looking at 5+ years terms for this.

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed it was a 'great commentary there and progress has been made by looking at the graphs. He believed they needed to look at the past'.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans questioned if they could proceed and were they within the budget?

Cr Aaron Edwards asked if it was because sales haven't gone through.

Cr Merv Williams *obviously had some doubt*, questioning the \$147 million debt and how will the property a sale affect it and was it part of the internal borrowing. He commented

'that the total debt will be heading south'. Merv, you appear to be one of the smart ones that see what is happening; maybe that is because you work for a smart accountant. Cr Warwick Syers explained that it was all about the 'long term plan of 5-7years'. *Yes will we be further up the creek without a paddle with the out of control spending this council appears good at?*

Cr Merv Williams confirmed it was easy to produce funds out of sales; but it was all smoke and mirrors. *You are getting good Merv.*

Cr Crichton Christie confirmed it was easy reading (*for those that can count up to 147*) but they needed to tighten up on our internal borrowing. He hoped the sales are not lost in the woodwork; that is the sales of assets in the property portfolio, as he would be watching. *And what will you be able to do about it after they are sold, Crichton? Stop them now.*

Cr Merv Williams asked that Group Manager Support Services, Alan Adcock, give him assurance there is nothing to be worried about. *Are you on to something, Merv? You are asking some 'titchy' questions.*

Item No. 4. Delegated Authority – Financial. (0915hrs) No discussion was required for this item.

Time at 0916hrs it was Item No. 5. Whangarei Cruising Club Loan Request. 0922hrs. This items agenda was replaced with a superseded Proposed Recommendation Cr Crichton Christie informs he is happy to support this, as this is what the fund is all about.

Cr Sue Glen was also supportive of Cr Christie's comments.

Time at 09hrs it was Item No. 6. Onerahi Soccer Club Loan Request. 0922hrs.

This items agenda was also replaced with a superseded Proposed Recommendation

Cr Merv Williams believed the application was a good application. The club had done a lot for themselves.

Group Manager Support Services, Alan Adcock, advised that the club like many, that cash flow was a squeeze when the building starts and this gives them some breathing room.

Cr Shelley Deeming was totally supportive of this. She was keen they developed a mechanism to show the community how council helps the community. It would be great to make it more obvious.

Cr Brian McLachlan believed it was a great step forward.

Cr Sue Glen commented that it was their time; you should see what they had to work with.

This meeting was over by 0921 hours and Warwick thanked all for attending.

It was off to the library for a coffee & chat readying oneself for the Council meeting at 1000hrs.

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Whangarei District Council website by clicking on this [link](#).