

Annual Plan discussions 25 June 2010

Present: Cr Trevor Norris, Cr Jack Inglis, Cr Barry Dowler, Cr Eileen Wilkins, Mr Lister, Jeff Cuthbertson

Introduction: Cr Norriss apologised for the loss of Mr Lister's submission.

Water

- Mr Lister expressed his concerns regarding the installation of the proposed Motueka water scheme.
- He would like Council to canvass all people in Motueka to gain their approval for the proposed scheme, ie referendum.
- He wants Council to pay for deepening of all affected bores, regardless of location.

A brief explanation of the proposed scheme was given to Mr Lister.

River Flood Protection

- Mr Lister wants Council to get an independent peer review of the proposed flood protection scheme.

It was indicated that any final design would be peer reviewed.

Rates

- Mr Lister's rates are not going up 5.4%, actually 6.4%.
- Council have raised rates above the rate of inflation.
- Mr Lister's rates have increased from \$1100 to \$2000 in the last five years.
- He suggests Council should only increase rates by say 3%. Council should take out what they don't want.
- Council must realise that they cannot increase rates beyond what people can afford.
- Need to have more information as a lot of projects affect the general rate and targeted rates.
- From website it is very hard to determine what are the general rate components and what are targeted rate components.

The meeting finished at 2.25pm.

Note on Motueka Community Board request for a matter in its submission to be reconsidered

Council officers have received a request from the Chair of the Motueka Community Board to have a matter raised in the Board's submission reconsidered by the Council prior to the adoption of the Annual Plan 2010/2011.

In the Motueka Community Board's submission on the Draft Annual Plan the request was made for Council to raise the general district ratepayer contribution to the Motueka Community Board from \$3.31 per ratepayer to \$5.00 per ratepayer, which would reduce the amount of money that Motueka ratepayers would have to pay for the Community Board rate. The extract from the submission (below) outlines the rationale for this request.

At the last Motueka Community Board meeting, staff responded to an earlier email from the Community Board Chair asking for the outcome of the matter above. The response was that the Council did not agree to the change requested by the Community Board. The request would be a change in the funding approach used to fund community associations and boards and that such a change would be better addressed through a Ten Year Plan review, rather than as a response to one submission when other community associations and boards had not had the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

The Motueka Community Board Chair has since emailed staff again questioning the Council decision and asking for it to be reviewed on Wednesday before Council adopts the Annual Plan and that a report on the Council's decision goes to the Community Board meeting in July. In his email he states that the change "would have no impact on the Board's budget or on any other Rate levied across the District's ratepayers". His statement is not correct, as there would be a minor increase to the general rate.

There is also a logistical problem with making any changes to the rates at this late stage, as it would mean Council would not meet the statutory deadline in the Local Government Act for adopting the Annual Plan, as the information in the document being considered by Council on 30 June would need to be changed.

Council staff recommend that if the Council would like to consider changing the basis of how it funds the Motueka Community Board, such a change would be best undertaken through a wider review of funding options for all the community associations and community boards (e.g. through a Ten Year Plan review or at least tested for public opinion through an Annual Plan review), rather than in response to a submission on a Draft Annual Plan from one organisation.

Recommendation:

That the Tasman District Council:

1. Advises the Motueka Community Board that it has reconsidered the Board's request in its Draft Annual Plan submission for the ratepayer contribution to the Motueka Community Board to be increased to \$25,085 (or \$5 per person) and that it reconfirms its decision of 9 June, not to agree to the change.

Optional extra:

2. Asks Council officers to report to Council on funding options for community associations and boards in time for the matter to be considered through the next review of the Draft Annual Plan (or Ten Year Plan).