

REPORT OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.18AM ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.

PRESENT: Councillor J Howden (Chair), Mayor W Gray, Councillors T Blunt, J Diver, G Harmon, C Mackle, D Millton, D Morgan.

IN ATTENDANCE: S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), S Syme (Committee Secretary), S Poulsen (Finance Manager).

1. MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO BE RAISED AS URGENT BUSINESS

1. Civic Centre Subcommittee (Councillor Millton)

2. FINANCE REPORTS

Of the \$1.63million in loans which were repaid in October last year \$580,000 had been redrawn to meet payment commitments in February. The accounts showed a surplus of \$225,000 with most revenue types above budget. Marlborough Regional Forestry payments had been a little lighter of late but the payments had been a bonus and were the main reason for the current surplus.

A discussion was held regarding borrowing limits. Councillor Blunt advised affordability was the most important factor and he felt saying Council could afford to borrow because of all of its assets was a dangerous thing given Council could not sell its roads, water or sewer assets. It was noted the borrowing limit policy also had a limit set against income.

It was noted the Statement of Activity Performance was incorrect and showed the figure for January. A new page was tabled.

A new Assistant Accountant had been employed and had started the previous Monday.

In terms of capital expenditure it was noted that there was no budget for walkway renewals but \$8,000 had been spent. This was attributed to emergency work undertaken on Tom's Track.

Moved by Councillor Howden, seconded by Councillor Millton and resolved that the Finance Reports be received.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

Civic Centre Subcommittee

Councillor Millton advised he would like to see a special subcommittee formed to monitor the completion of the new Civic Centre building. Mayor Gray advised it had been decided to form a subcommittee due to delays with the completion of the building. Mayor Gray advised the subcommittee would be made up of himself and Councillors Millton, Harmon and Howden. The Committee would be responsible for reporting back to Council.

It was felt this matter was a major item and a resolution was required on the matter because of the delays in the project and the intense interest from the community and the possibility of a cost overrun.

Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Milton that Council form a Civic Centre Subcommittee which would be made up of Mayor Gray and Councillors Harmon, Howden and Milton.

The Civic Centre was a very expensive asset and it was important ratepayers knew what was going on. It was noted Council was the contractor and any issues would fall very heavily on Council.

The motion was put and carried.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.46am.