

Minutes of the Municipal District of Tuam budget meeting held
on 24th October 2018

**MINUTES OF BUDGET MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TUAM HELD
IN ROOM GO1, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY**

ON WEDNESDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 10AM

I LÁTHAIR:

BAILL:

Cllr Mary Hoade

Cllr Des Joyce

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cllr Billy Connelly

Cllr Tom McHugh

Cllr Karey McHugh

Cllr Peter Roche

OIFIGIGH:

Ms Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, Planning, Environment & Emergency Services

Mr Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Finance and ICT

Ms Rachel Lowe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Municipal District of Tuam

Mr John Coyle, A/Executive Engineer, Municipal District of Tuam

Mr Jack Houlihan, Assistant Engineer, Municipal District of Tuam

Ms Nuala Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Infrastructure & Operations Unit

Mr John Moore, Clerical Officer, Finance and ICT

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Donagh Mark Killilea

Cllr Shaun Cunniffe

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To consider and adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tuam, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive. **MDT18044**

Cllr Keaveney welcomed everyone to the meeting where the draft budget for the Municipal District of Tuam 2019 is to be discussed. Apologies were acknowledged for Cllr Cunniffe and Cllr Killilea who could not attend. The draft budget report was distributed for review and Cllr Keaveney invited Mr Mullarkey to give a presentation on the main changes to the 2019 Budget from that adopted in 2018.

Mr Mullarkey told the attendees that the main changes to the 2019 draft budget were in the areas of street cleaning where an additional €10,000 was allocated to the Municipal District and Services B0301 to B0406 in the draft budget report which reflected increases in roads grant funding. Mr. Mullarkey stated that the road grants budgets were based on 2018 actual allocations and that the Department had indicated that this level of funding would be maintained in 2019.

A general discussion then commenced and it was noted that all the councilors were satisfied with the budget figures as presented. They all thanked the staff of the Municipal District office in Tuam for their work and acknowledged that the budget reflected the increase roads grant funding and the increase of in funding for street cleaning.

Cllr Roche queried if some money that was allocated for an exceptional event could be re-distributed as required for other areas. Mr Mullarkey stated that this was not possible.

Cllr Joyce asked if there was any possibility of additional staff allocations for Tuam as there were a lot of retirements and a there was a general need for extra staff. Mr Mullarkey stated that the Chief Executive Officer had committed to replacing all retirees over the last 2 years but that the only way to justify the appointment of additional staff was if additional funding was allocated. Ms Lowe stated that there were 4 additional staff now in Tuam.

Cllr Roche raised a query around money allocated for cemetery maintenance and there was a general discussion around the condition of cemeteries, refuse and falling trees within cemetery grounds. Ms Lowe committed to check out any specific issues raised in relation to cemeteries in the Municipal District of Tuam.

Cllr T McHugh proposed to adopt under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tuam. It was seconded by Cllr Hoade and agreed by the members.

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Any Other Business

MDT14045

Mr Coyle distributed to the attendees present a report on a section of road known as Twenty Minute Hill between Dunmore and Tuam that had a lot of serious accidents in recent years. He stated that this stretch of road was very narrow and frequently contained debris falling from the embankments on the side. The report was to bring to the Councillors attention the need for works to commence on this stretch to make it safer. Initially these works would require bollards at the roadside to protect the embankment and a recommendation to put the road down to one lane, with traffic lights in the form of a stop-go system to maintain this.

A general discussion on the report took place with some noting that it was necessary based on accident history and for health and safety reasons, necessary, that a stop-go system be put in place. Concerns were raised however around the fact that it was a busy road and there would be a big impact for drivers because of putting such a system in place. There was also concern that this system might be in place for a very significant period because of the nature of the entire process involved and the work required. There was a query whether funding had been acquired for this work.

Mr Coyle acknowledged that funding had been verbally agreed but there was a process in place that had to be followed to get final agreement from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The main issue ongoing now was the acquisition of land from the landowner on one side.

Ms Lowe stated that the decision to put in the stop-go system had been made at a high level and had not been taken lightly. There was an understanding of the impact of the stop-go system on the public and that Galway County Council were keen to try to move this entire project on as soon as possible.

CRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIÚ ANSIN.

Approved by: _____

Cllr Peter Keaveney

Cathaoirleach

Municipal District of Tuam