



**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

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**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL,
COUNCIL MINUTES**

GC/1/30

12 JUNE 1992 - 30 NOVEMBER 1992

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED ESTIMATES MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON MONDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 1992.

IN THE CHAIR: (a) Councillor S. Gavin.
(b) Councillor M. Mullins.

ALSO PRESENT:

Members: As recorded in the Attendance Book.

Councillors J. Brennan, J. Burke, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Deputy P. Connaughton, Deputy E. O'Cuiv, Councillors M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, Senator T. Hussey, Councillors M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, Deputy P. McCormack, P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley and T. Walsh.

Officials: Messrs. S. Keating, County Manager; P.J. Gavin, Assistant County Manager; P. Flood, County Engineer; E. Lusby, Finance Officer; R. Killeen, Senior Executive Engineer; T. Coughlan, Administrative Officer; and T. Kavanagh, County Secretary.

The Opening Prayer was recited.

As the Chairman, Councillor Michael Mullins was delayed, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Seamus Gavin took the Chair.

ELECTION RESULTS:

The Acting Chairman congratulated Councillor McCormack, Councillor Connaughton and Councillor O'Cuiv on their election to Dail Eireann. He also congratulated the other successful Candidates in the Galway East and Galway West Constituencies, and commiserated with the unsuccessful Candidates. He also wished the Political Parties success in the next few weeks in the formation of a new Government.

All the Members and the County Manager joined with the Chairman in his sentiments. Deputies McCormack, Connaughton, and O'Cuiv thanked the Chairman and others for their kind remarks.

MIN. NO.

1132

PAGE 2 ADJOURNED ESTIMATES MEETING ON 30/11/1992.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1993:

1133

The Acting Chairman said that he had a list of Members who had spoken at the previous Estimates Meeting and those who did not speak were now free to do so. Councillor McHugh suggested that the adoption of the Estimates be adjourned until the new Government is formed on the basis that one of the Parties advocated the abolition of service charges. The Acting Chairman said that the Council had already decided on a programme for dealing with the Estimates and that a further Estimates Meeting would be held on Friday, 4th December. Senator Hussey said that there was plenty to discuss in the Estimates other than service charges, and recommended that consideration of the Estimates proceed.

Consideration of the Estimates resumed and as explained at the previous Estimates Meeting, all Programmes in the Estimates were open for discussion. The County Manager explained that as a result of discussions at the Finance Committee Meeting and the Area Roads Meetings, the funds for roads would be allocated on a mileage basis other than roads specifically designated by the Department of the Environment. This was welcomed by the Members.

Councillor Loughnane referred to page 9 - Water Supply and Sewerage and asked for clarification in relation to the £3 M. provided under Capital Expenditure for Sewerage Schemes. He said he understood that Loughrea Sewerage Scheme was top of the priority list and that it would commence in 1993. The scheme was necessary to prevent the pollution of the Dunkellin River. In regard to roads, Councillor Loughnane asked that the Members from the Loughrea Area be given an up-date on the proposed Loughrea By-Pass.

Councillor Walsh expressed great disappointment that provision was not made in the Estimates for dealing with the storm water problem in Glenamaddy. He said the scheme would only cost £75,000, and the people would no longer put up with the dreadful situation that exists. He said that the scheme should be financed out of Council funds, otherwise it may never be done. He also referred to the need for the Williamstown Sewerage Scheme, but accepted that it would have to be funded by the Department as a Capital Scheme.

Councillor O'Sullivan asked for clarification regarding the Clontuskert Water Supply Scheme. In order to expedite the scheme, he asked if it could just be extended to Clontuskert or would the Council allow the people proceed with the group scheme. Councillor W. Burke said that he was very concerned that the Portumna Sewerage Scheme was not included.

He said that the Preliminary Report had not yet been submitted to the Department and that some schemes seemed to have jumped the queue. He said that industry and jobs were depending on the new scheme, and he wanted a definite date when the scheme would start.

Councillor Finnegan said that he supported Councillor Walsh as regards Glenamaddy Storm Water Scheme and Williamstown Sewerage Scheme. He also mentioned the need for a scheme in Kilkerrin. In regard to housing, Councillor Finnegan said that many houses in Tuam were in bad repair, needing new doors, windows, and dealing with dampness. He said that in many locations, there were long lines of houses with no public lighting such as along Birmingham Road, and that something needed to be done about it.

Councillor Joe Burke agreed about the urgency of the Glenamaddy Surface Water Scheme and said that the Council should prioritise the schemes. He said it was unacceptable not to make any provision for new public lighting. He said that many towns were extending and children were in danger walking in the dark. He said that the Council was not getting its fair share of Government Grant and a start must be made to implement the Fiscal Studies Report. In regard to housing, he said that some houses are built with structural faults where chimneys do not work properly and fires cannot be lit. He said that while the voluntary housing scheme was beneficial, it was not meeting the demand.

Councillor Regan said that additional funds were required for essential repairs, and some demountables were in very bad condition. He said that some provision would have to be made for new public lighting. He said that business was down in Loughrea due to the prohibition on carparking and that the 5% increase was unacceptable.

Deputy O'Cuiv said that there was a crisis as regards housing repairs. He said that the money provided would have to be better spent and the use of resources would have to be looked at to devise a better system. In regard to collection of rents and charges, he said that there must be a better system other than going around door to door and asked that this be looked at. He said that pressure should be put on for a new Purchase Scheme and that some provision would have to be made for new public lighting. He said that people entitled to waivers should not be sent bills.

Mr. Lusby, Finance Officer, reminded the Members that the expenditure and income side of the Estimates must be kept in balance and that any increased expenditure would have to be matched with increased income or alternatively reduced expenditure under some other

heading. He said that the water charges proposed would only pay for part of the overall cost of the provision and maintenance of water supplies. He said that to waive commercial water rates would cost £325,000. In reply to Councillor Loughnane, Mr. Lusby explained that the expenditure in support services on page 23 was expenditure which was not attributable to any particular programme but was put into support services and re-apportioned over the 8 Programmes in proportion to the expenditure on each Programme.

The County Engineer spoke about public lighting which had been mentioned by many Members. He said that in recent years, the Council had provided £20,000 per annum to provide one-off lights in different locations. He said that much of the public lighting in towns and villages was old and could even be defective, and therefore needed to be replaced. He said that the E.S.B. had put forward a proposition to modernise the public lighting over a five year period at a cost of £40,000 per annum. He said the Council would now have to make a decision as to whether the old and defective lighting should be renewed and he advised that a start should be made on renewing the old public lighting rather than providing additional public lighting which the Council is unable to maintain.

Councillor O'Neachtain said that some public lighting which had been replaced in Spiddal were in very bad condition and he agreed that a programme of renewal was necessary. He said that there were some anomalies as regards public lighting and that some roads were overlit such as the road to Cappagh, while places like Spiddal were in the dark. He proposed that some system of State funding be sought for the renewal of public lighting, and that the Council carry on with the programme of one-off new lighting. This was seconded by Councillor Joe Burke. Councillor W. Burke said that the new one-off lights in villages were very necessary and must continue. He said that an independent study should be carried out of the actual cost of providing new lighting. Councillor Ni Fhatharta said that the provision of new one-off public lighting would have to continue each year irrespective of any renewal programme.

At this point, there was a discussion about roads and the distribution of the road funds. The County Manager said that the roadworks programme could not be finalised until the Road Grants are notified but that a model exercise could be done using the principle of allocating the appropriate funds on a mileage basis.

Councillor O'Neill said that he would be asking to have some of the Supplementary Grants spent on minor roads in the Clifden Area. He also said that in some

areas, local committees had been set up to maintain burial grounds, and that in such cases, the plot fees should be handed over to the local committees for maintenance.

COUNCILLOR M. MULLINS TOOK THE CHAIR AT THIS POINT.

Councillor Quinn agreed that drainage schemes were required in Glenamaddy, Williamstown and Kilkerrin, as a matter of urgency. She said that the condition of some houses in Tuam was very bad. She said that new public lighting was badly needed in places like Mountbellew, Ballygar, and Creggs.

Councillor Byrne asked if rents and other income to the Council were being paid or were there alot of arrears. Mr. Lusby said that, while there were some arrears, the matter was kept under constant review. As regards water charges waivers, he said that all waivers must be applied for and most of them are dealt with very speedily. In regard to methods of payment, Mr. Lusby said that the Council would consider any method and was presently finalising arrangements for a direct debit system. He said he would welcome a system whereby rent could be deducted from Social Welfare payments and the Council had already asked for this.

Mr. Gavin, Assistant County Manager, said that the £3M. in the Capital Programme was only a notional figure and whatever Capital Allocation was received from the Department would be used. He said that the Glenamaddy Storm Water Scheme was awaiting approval of funds. In regard to the Clontuskert Scheme, he said that the plans were with the Department and the Department would not allow the Scheme to go ahead as a group scheme. In regard to the Portumna Sewerage Scheme, he said that the Preliminary Report is expected to be ready by the end of the year. He said that the Oranmore Sewerage Scheme, after Stage 1, was dependent on the city scheme. In reply to Councillor Varley, he said that the Headford Sewerage Scheme was ready to go ahead subject to funding. Deputy Connaughton said that it should be possible to work out a deduction system for rent with the Department of Social Welfare. Senator O'Cuiv said that many people were in arrears with rent and water charges, and every effort should be made to get these sorted out. Mr. Lusby replied that all arrears are being looked at individually with a view to making arrangements to have them cleared.

Following discussion, Councillor Mannion proposed that consideration of the Estimates be adjourned to Friday, 4th December and this was agreed.

SYMPATHY:

Resolutions of sympathy were adopted with the following:

- Mr. Michael Larkin, Springrove, Killimor, Ballinasloe.
- Mrs. Evelyn Finnegan, Mountmary, Ballygar.
- Mr. Eugene Spellman, Lake Road, Loughrea.
- Mr. Dermot Nee, Tully, Renvyle.
- Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Connolly, Knocknagreena, Ballinasloe.
- Mr. Jimmy Murray & Family, Knockrackery, Roscommon.

THE MEETING THEN ENDED

SUBMITTED APPROVED + CONFIRMED:

Michael Mullins

CHAIRMAN

21/12/92

DATE

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

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County Buildings,
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Galway. TK/MMCM
MO THAG
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23rd November, 1992.

TO EACH MEMBER OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL/

A Chara:

The adjourned Estimates Meeting of Galway County Council will be held in the County Buildings, Galway, on Monday, 30th November, 1992, commencing at 3.30 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

T. KAVANAGH,
COUNTY SECRETARY.

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON MONDAY, 23RD
NOVEMBER, 1992.

IN THE CHAIR: (a) Clr. M. Mullins.
(b) Clr. S. Gavin.

ALSO PRESENT:

Members: As recorded in the Attendance Book.

Councillors J. Brennan, W. Burke, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, Senator E. O'Cuiv, Councillors M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, P. Finnegan, M. Finnerty, Senator T. Hussey, Councillors M. Loughnane, J. McClearn, Councillors J. McDonagh, P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley, and T. Walsh.

Officials: Messrs. S. Keating, County Manager; P. Flood, County Engineer; D. O'Donoghue, Assistant City and County Manager; P.J. Gavin, Asst. County Manager; E. Lusby, Finance Officer; T. Coughlan, Administrative Officer; and T. Kavanagh, County Secretary.

The Opening Prayer was recited.

MIN. NO.

1090

SYMPATHY:

On the proposition of the Chairman, the Council passed a resolution of sympathy to the relatives of the late P.J. Tobin, Consulting Engineer.

The County Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Staff, joined in the expression of sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Tobin. He said that Mr. Tobin was a man of the highest integrity and his firm was involved in many local authority projects both in Galway and up and down the country.

On the proposition of Councillor Finnerty, the Council passed a resolution of sympathy to the relatives of the late Adrian Connolly. A resolution of sympathy was also adopted with Mrs. Jodie Fahey, Clonlee, Kylebrack, Loughrea.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT:

The Chairman informed the Meeting that the President, Mrs. Mary Robinson, had accepted an invitation from him to address the Members of Galway County Council at a meeting on 9th December at approximately 4.30 p.m.

1091

He said he felt it was a great honour that the President had agreed to visit the Council and suggested that the Friday Meeting for 11th December be brought forward to the 9th December. Councillor Mannion proposed that the December Planning Meeting be held on 9th December, commencing at 3.00 p.m. This was seconded by Councillor Ryan and agreed.

PROMOTION OF MR. D. O'DONOGHUE, ASSISTANT CITY AND COUNTY MANAGER:

1092

The Chairman welcomed Mr. O'Donoghue to the Meeting and congratulated him on his appointment as County Manager, Meath County Council. He said that Mr. O'Donoghue had given outstanding service to Galway City and County. He said he was a pleasure to work with and has a distinguished career in local government ahead of him. He extended good wishes to Mr. O'Donoghue and his family. All the Members paid tribute to Mr. O'Donoghue and wished him every success.

The County Manager also congratulated Mr. O'Donoghue and paid tribute to his work. He said he first worked with Mr. O'Donoghue in Kerry in 1970. Since Mr. O'Donoghue came to Galway, he had shared the burden of running the City and County with the County Manager and deputised for him during his absence. The County Manager said that Mr. O'Donoghue was a very loyal Official and took a great interest in staff training and development. He wished Mr. O'Donoghue and his family every success.

Mr. O'Donoghue thanked the Chairman, Members and Manager for their kind remarks. He said he was greatly honoured to have worked in County Galway and thanked the Members and Staff for the support he had received from them. He paid tribute to the Councillors for their contribution to local government and thanked the County Manager for his guidance and support at all times.

MINUTES:

1093

On the proposition of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, the Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 23rd October, 1992, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to the Minutes of Coiste Gaeilge Meeting of 16th September, 1992, Councillor Gavin pointed out that reference to Oireachtas 93 needed to be amended. He said that Oireachtas 93 was being held in Galway but that the Coiste Gaeilge recommended that the Bord na Gaeilge Annual Conference for local authorities also be held in the Galway Gaeltacht in 93. Subject to this amendment, the Minutes of Coiste Gaeilge Meeting of 16th September, 1992, were adopted on the

proposition of An Comhairleoir O'Neachtain, seconded by Councillor McDonagh.

Councillor Gavin asked about the possibility of financial assistance for the organisers of Oireachtas 93. The County Manager said that the organisers had made an application to Galway Corporation which was under consideration at present.

Councillor O'Neachtain said that he was not in favour of moving the location of the Bord na Gaeilge Annual Conference from Donegal to Galway. It was agreed to support the recommendation of An Coiste Gaeilge.

SALE OF HOUSE TO JOSEPH AND CHRISTINA MAHER:

1094

It was proposed by Councillor Regan, seconded by Councillor Callanan, and resolved:

"That Galway County Council approve of the sale of house to Joseph & Christina Maher, 80 Fahy Gardens, Loughrea, Co. Galway, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 28th October, 1992, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, and Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966, as amended, by Section 4 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Act, 1978, which had been circulated to each Member of the Council."

SALE OF HOUSE TO PATRICK AND MARY MURRAY:

1095

On the proposition of Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Callanan, it was resolved:

"That Galway County Council approve of the sale of house to Patrick and Mary Murray, Derrymore, Ballinamore Bridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 4th November, 1992, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, and Section 90 of the Housing Act, 1966, as amended, by Section 4 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) Act, 1978, which had been circulated to each Member of the Council."

SALE OF PLOT LAND TO CORRIB OIL LTD.:

1096

On the proposition of Councillor McClearn, seconded by Councillor Callanan, it was resolved:

"That Galway County Council hereby approve the sale of plot of land measuring .10 hectares approximately in the Townland of Caherlavine to Corrib Oil Ltd. c/o All In Property Services, Park House, 41, Main Street, Loughrea, in accordance with notice under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, dated 16th October, 1992, which had been circulated to each Member."

SALE OF PLOT OF LAND TO MR. GABRIEL GARDNER:

1097

Councillor Fahy said that he was opposing the sale of this plot as it could affect the adjoining property, in respect of which a planning application has been lodged. Councillor Byrne proposed that the plot of land be sold in accordance with the terms circulated in the Section 83 Notice. He said that the plot needed to be developed and any building would have to comply with planning requirements. Councillor McDonagh seconded Councillor Byrne's proposal. Councillor Loughnane proposed that a decision be deferred for one month and that all the details be circulated. This was seconded by Councillor Quinn.

The County Secretary stated that all the details were set out in the Section 83 Notice. He said that the Council acquired the site many years ago for the construction of a public convenience. It was not proposed to proceed with the construction of a public convenience on the site and the site was now surplus to the Council's needs. The site was advertised in the local papers and the site is being sold to the highest bidder. He said that the site was being sold without any conditions in regard to planning permission. He said that the purchaser had in fact applied for Planning Permission and had been refused and he gave details of the Planning application.

Councillor Byrne proposed and Councillor McDonagh seconded:

"That Galway County Council approve of the sale of plot of land measuring .03 acres at Cross Street, Athenry, to Mr. Gabriel Gardner, Prospect, Athenry, in accordance with the terms of notice dated 3rd October, 1992, under Section 83 of the Local Government Act, 1946, as circulated to each Member."

A vote taken on Councillor Byrne's proposal to dispose of the plot of land in accordance with the Section 83 notice resulted as follows:

FOR: Councillors J. Brennan, W. Burke, T. Byrne, M. Finnerty, S. Gavin, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, M. Mullins, M. O'Neill, P. O'Tuathail, M. Ryan, E. Varley, and T. Walsh.

(14)

AGAINST: Senator E. O'Cuiv, Councillors M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, Senator T. Hussey, M. Loughnane, P. McHugh, C. Ni Phatharta, S. O'Neachtain, K. Quinn, M. Regan.

(10)

Councillor Callanan abstained.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

DATE FOR DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING:

1098

It was agreed that the December Monthly Meeting be held on Monday, 21st December, 1992.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION FOR 6 MONTHS ENDING 30/6/1993:

1099

On the proposition of Councillor Mannion, seconded by Councillor Ryan, it was resolved:

"That Galway County Council hereby approve of the raising of Overdraft to the extent of £3M on the Council's Revenue and Capital Accounts for the period of 6 months ending on the 30th June, 1993, subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment."

SECTION 59 AGREEMENT WITH GALWAY CORPORATION FOR PHASE 3 OF THE GALWAY EASTERN APPROACH ROAD:

1100

The County Secretary stated that Phase 3 of the Galway Eastern Approach Road is mainly within the Corporation area and only a small portion in the County Area. He said that for convenience, it was desirable that an agreement be entered into providing for the construction by Galway Corporation of that part of the project in the County Council Administrative Area viz. in the Townland of Breanloughaun and the acquisition of land for same. It is also proposed in the agreement for the designing of the road and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement by Galway County Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Finnerty, seconded by Councillor Cunningham, and resolved that Galway County Council enter into the following agreement with Galway Corporation and that the Seal of the Council be affixed to the Agreement:

"THIS AGREEMENT made the ... day of ... One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Two between THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY having their offices at County Buildings, Prospect Hill, Galway (hereinafter called "the Council") of the one part and MAYOR ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF GALWAY of City Hall, College Road, Galway (hereinafter called "the Corporation" of the other part) WHEREAS

The Corporation is involved in the construction of a road known as Galway Eastern Approach Road - Phase 3, part of which is to be constructed in the Townland of Breanloughaun which is in the Galway County Council functional area.

The Corporation is in the course of acquiring lands and of constructing the road within its own boundary immediately adjacent to the Townland of Breanloughaun.

The Council and the Corporation are of the opinion that it would be more convenient that the powers, duties or functions of acquiring land and of constructing the roadway in the said townland of Breanloughaun which may be exercised or performed by the Council should be exercised or performed by the Corporation and the Corporation are able and willing to exercise and perform the said powers, duties or functions in accordance with Section 59 of the Local Government Act, 1955.

THE COUNCIL AND THE CORPORATION AGREE that the Corporation will exercise or perform the powers, duties or functions of acquiring the lands and of constructing part of the roadway required in the Townland of Breanloughaun.

Furthermore, the Council and the Corporation are also of the opinion that it would be more convenient that the powers, duties and function of designing the overall road, including preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, be exercised or performed by the Council on behalf of the Corporation.

THE COUNCIL AND THE CORPORATION AGREE that the Council will exercise or perform the powers, duties or functions of designing the said road, including preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

IN WITNESS whereof the Parties hereto have hereunto affixed their respective Seals the day and year first written.

CO-OPERATION NORTH - LOCAL AUTHORITY TWINNING PROGRAMME: 1101

Correspondence from Co-Operation North Organisation was circulated to each Member with the Agenda. The correspondence explained that the Twinning Programme was about promoting greater understanding and tolerance between people in local authorities north and south of the border and providing opportunities for Council Officials and Elected Representatives north and south to meet and exchange ideas and information with each other. The County Manager said that the Council had contacts previously with Fermanagh, and Ballinasloe Urban District Council had exchanges with Ballycastle. He said that Galway Corporation had an informal exchange with Derry City. The Chairman, Councillor McClearn, and other Members

agreed that it would be good idea to build closer relations with communities in the north of Ireland. However, it was agreed that the proposal be researched further.

GUARANTEED IRISH PROMOTION:

1102

Councillor McHugh said that the Chief Executive Officer of the Guaranteed Irish Company was unable to attend the Meeting but could attend on 4th December, next. It was agreed that he be given time to address the Council at the start of the Estimates Meeting on 4th December.

Councillor Gavin said that time was important and that the Council should pass a resolution and proposed that shoppers be urged to buy Irish and Store Managers be asked to display Irish goods prominently. This was seconded by Councillor McClearn and agreed.

AMENITY GRANTS 1992:

1103

The list of Amenity projects recommended for grants was circulated to each Member with the Agenda. A sum of £15,000 was provided in the 1992 Estimates for Amenity Grants, and 32 projects were recommended for grant aid amounting to a total of £15,000.

In reply to Councillor O'Neachtain, the County Manager explained that the County Development Team provides the service of processing the applications because of the close contact which the Team has with community groups throughout the County. He also confirmed that applications from the Gaeltacht areas were eligible. The Members welcomed the recommendations and agreed that though the amounts in some cases were quite small, they were a great encouragement to communities to get involved in enhancing their areas. Councillor Loughnane suggested that if, at all possible, the provision for Amenity Grants in the 1993 Estimates should be increased. Mr. Frank Dawson, also addressed the Meeting and agreed that the Grants were a great encouragement to voluntary organisations. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McDonagh, seconded by Councillor McHugh and resolved that the following Amenity Grants be allocated for 1992:

AMENITY GRANTS 1992

	£
Abbey Community Development Association	500
Ahascragh Hall Committee	500
Archbishop Donnellan Centre, Dunmore	700
Ballinakill Community Development Committee	500
Ballyconneely Development Co. Ltd.	500
Beagh Rural Development Association	300

Caltra Community & District Council	300
Caltra Sportsfield Committee	300
Clarenbridge Development Association	500
Coiste Pobail Chamuis	600
Coolarne/Turloughmore Hurling Club	300
Corofin Parish Pastoral Council	500
Corrandrum Community Development Association	700
Glenamaddy Arts & Historical Society	900
Headford Development Group	300
Headford Pitch Development Committee	700
Kilconly/Kilbannon Community Development Association	800
Killasolan National School Board of Management	300
Kilkerrin Parish Council	700
Killimor GAA Club	500
Lackagh Museum (Historical Group)	500
Loughrea Tidy Towns Committee	300
Millstream Park Residents Association	500
Milltown Community Care Association	500
Milltown Development Co. Ltd.	300
Monivea Community Committee	400
Monivea Community Development Committee	300
Portumna Lawn Tennis Club	300
Portumna Tidy Towns Committee	300
Turloughmore Field & Social Centre	400
Turloughmore Village Committee	300
Williamstown Parochial Hall Committee	500

COUNCILLOR S. GAVIN TOOK OVER THE CHAIR AT THIS POINT.

MEETING OF SHEEP DIPPING COMMITTEE OF CONNAUGHT COUNTIES AND DONEGAL IN ATHLONE ON 10TH DECEMBER, 1992: 1104

On the proposition of Councillor McDonagh, seconded by Councillor McClearn, it was agreed that Councillors Mannion and Ryan be nominated to attend this Meeting.

On the proposition of Senator Hussey, seconded by Councillor Callanan, it was agreed that Councillor Fahy be nominated to attend the Meeting also.

Councillor McDonagh then proposed that Councillors Mannion and Ryan be nominated to attend all the Meetings of the All-Ireland Sheep Dipping Committee and the Connaught Counties Committee for the duration of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Finnerty and agreed.

Senator Hussey proposed that Councillor Fahy be nominated to attend all the Meetings of the All-Ireland Sheep Dipping Committee and the Connaught Counties Sheep Dipping Committee for the duration of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Callanan and agreed.

CONNEMARA WEST CELEBRATIONS - CONTRIBUTION BY GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL: 1105

Letter dated 15th October, 1992, from Connemara West PLC was circulated to each Member with the Agenda.

Councillor Mannion said that Connemara West had done excellent work in Connemara over the years and recommended payment of a grant of £500. Councillor O'Neill seconded the proposal and explained the work that Connemara West has been involved in and that Galway County Council has a share in the Company and a Director on the Board. Councillor Mannion's motion was agreed.

WATER SUPPLY - INISHMORE: 1106

The Chairman, Councillor Gavin, referred to the water problem on Inishmore. He said that extra storage was required as a matter of urgency and a recent meeting of the Islands Committee recommended that a deputation go to the Minister for the Environment. Councillor O'Neachtain said that there a water problem on the three Aran Islands. He said that the three islands were major resorts for tourists and students and the Department of the Environment did not seem to realise the urgency of the matter. He proposed an immediate deputation to the Minister. Councillor McHugh proposed that the deputation meet the new Minister.

Mr. Gavin, Assistant County Manager, said that the Council had submitted a Preliminary Report to the Department of the Environment for extra storage facilities on Inishmore. However, the Department had requested additional reports and these would be ready in December. He said it would be better if the Department had all the information when the deputation is received, but that the deputation could be requested at this stage. The Council decided that a request be forwarded to the Minister to receive a deputation in connection with the provision of extra water storage facilities on Inishmore.

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION
N.O.M. NO. 16: ROAD - CLR. S. GAVIN: 1107

The following written reply was given to Clr. S. Gavin:

"It appears from our records that the above road is not in charge of the Council. Accordingly it is not proposed to carry out repairs to same."

N.O.M. NO. 17: FLOODING - DEPUTY P. McCORMACK: 1108

The following written reply was given to Deputy P. McCormack:

"Flooding problem at above location will be alleviated in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 18: ROAD - SEN. E. O'CUIV: 1109

The following written reply was given to Senator E. O'Cuiv:

"Road at above location will be taken in charge in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 19: ROAD - CLR. M. CUNNINGHAM: 1110

The following written reply was given to Clr. M. Cunningham:

"There are no funds available to carry out the above works in the current year."

N.O.M. NO. 20: JUNCTION - CLR. M. CUNNINGHAM: 1111

The following written reply was given to Clr. M. Cunningham:

"The location referred to is at the junction of a private road and the adjoining National Secondary road (N66) at Mahony's shop. The work involved is extensive and requires the removal of trees and an earth bank and the provision of sight distance on a bend on the National Secondary road. There are no funds available for the work in the current year."

N.O.M. NO. 21: FLOODING - CLR. S. GAVIN: 1112

The following written reply was given to Clr. S. Gavin:

"The house floor level is considerably lower than the adjoining road level and it is inevitable that some water will flow from the road on to his property. It is not possible to rectify this matter at this stage."

N.O.M. NO. 23: ROAD - CLR. W. BURKE: 1113

The following written reply was given to Clr. W. Burke:

- (a) The Scheme has proceeded to C.P.O. because of difficulties with land acquisition.
- (b) Resurfacing in Craughwell village.
- (c) 1993.
- (d) Between 6 months and 2 years on average.
- (e) This would result in the overall loss of the £60,000 and in any event the D.O.E. do not allow the drawing down and holding of funds."

N.O.M. NO. 24: SPEED LIMIT - CLR. W. BURKE: 1114

The following written reply was given to Clr. W. Burke:

"The Council will be recommending the erection of 40 mph speed limit on each side of the above village at the Speed Limits Review Committee Meeting which is to take place in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 25: ENGINEERING AREAS - CLR. W. BURKE: 1115

The following written reply was given to Clr. W. Burke:

"The Council will endeavour to achieve this as far as may be possible".

N.O.M. NO. 26: BRIDGE - DEPUTY P. CONNAUGHTON: 1116

The following written reply was given to Deputy P. Connaughton:

"Work is presently in progress at the above location."

N.O.M. NO. 27: FOOTPATHS - CLR. C. NI FHATHARTA: 1117

The following written reply was given to Clr. C. Ni Fhatharta:

"The above location is included in the draft Road Works Programme for 1993."

N.O.M. NO. 28: LIGHT - CLR. C. NI FHATHARTA: 1118

The following written reply was given to Clr. C. Ni Fhatharta:

"The estimate proposals do not include any provision for new lights for 1993 as explained in the statement appended to the Book of Estimates."

N.O.M. NO. 29: ROADS - CLR. C. NI FHATHARTA: 1119

The following written reply was given to Clr. C. Ni Fhatharta:

"Trabane Village is included in the 1993 draft Road Works Programme. However, it was not possible to include roads at Drum and Tiernee due to lack of funds."

N.O.M. NO. 30: ROAD - CLR. J. McDONAGH: 1120

The following written reply was given to Clr. J. McDonagh:

"The road at above location is included in the 1993

draft Road Works Programme."

N.O.M. NO. 31: ROAD - CLR. J. McDONAGH: 1121

The following written reply was given to Clr. J. McDonagh:

"Routine maintenance will be carried out to the public road section at above location in order of priority and as resources permit."

N.O.M. NO. 32: ROAD - CLR. J. McDONAGH: 1122

The following written reply was given to Clr. J. McDonagh:

"Repairs will be carried out at above location in the coming weeks."

N.O.M. NO. 33: WALL - CLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN: 1123

The following written reply was given to Clr. S. O'Neachtain:

"This matter is being investigated at present and it is hoped to have a reply available for the next meeting."

N.O.M. NO. 34: FLOODING - CLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN: 1124

The following written reply was given to Clr. S. O'Neachtain:

"This matter is being investigated at present and it is hoped to have a reply available for the next meeting."

N.O.M. NO. 35: ROADWAY - CLR. S. O'NEACHTAIN: 1125

The following written reply was given to Clr. S. O'Neachtain:

"The road will be repaired in the course of normal maintenance."

N.O.M. NO. 36: ROAD - CLR. P. MCHUGH: 1126

The following written reply was given to Clr. P. McHugh:

"No funds were provided by the Department of the Environment for the above National Route in the current year. The council has not yet been notified of the 1993 Road Grant allocation."

N.O.M. NO. 37: SIGN - CLR. P. MCHUGH: 1127

The following written reply was given to Clr. P.

McHugh:

"This statutory sign will be erected in the near future."

N.O.M. NO. 38: TRAFFIC - CLR. P. MCHUGH: 1128

The following written reply was given to Clr. P. McHugh:

"There are no funds available to carry out the above work in the current year."

N.O.M. NO. 39: SPEED LIMIT - CLR. M. FAHY: 1129

The following written reply was given to Clr. M. Fahy:

"The request has been submitted to Garda Authorities and a further reply will issue on receipt of their recommendation."

N.O.M. NO. 40: FOOTPATHS AND LIGHTS - CLR. M. FAHY: 1130

The following written reply was given to Clr. M. Fahy:

"It is proposed to replace substandard footpaths in Ardahan village during work on the N.18 realignment. T.R.L. will also be installed in the village. Approval to the use of rumble strips will be sought from the Department of the Environment."

N.O.M. NO. 41: FOOTPATHS: FOOTBRIDGE: - CLR. P. O'SULLIVAN: 1131

The following written reply was given to Clr. Pat O'Sullivan:

"(1) It is not intended to complete the footpaths at the above location until the houses are built.

(2) It is hoped to have the footbridge provided in 1993."

THE MEETING THEN ENDED

SUBMITTED, APPROVED & CONFIRMED:

Michael D'Alla CHAIRMAN
21/12/92 DATE

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
(Galway County Council)

Oifig an Runai,
Arus an Chontae,
GAILLIMH.

-16u la Samhain, 1992.

CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/

A Chara:

Iarrtar ort leis seo bheith i lathair ag cruinniú de Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, a thionolfar ins na Foirgnithe Chontae, Gaillimh, ar De Luain, an 23u la Samhain, 1992, ar a 3.30 a chlog sa trathnóna.

Mise, le meas,

T. O'CAOMHANAIGH,
RUNAI.

A G E N D A

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the following Meetings:
 - (a) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 23th October, 1992.
 - (b) Minutes of Coiste Gaeilge Committee Meeting held on 16th September, 1992.
2. Sale of house to Joseph & Christina Maher - Section 83 notice dated 28th October, 1992, already circulated.
3. Sale of house to Patrick and Mary Murray - Section 83 notice dated 4th November, 1992, already circulated.
4. Sale of plot of land to Corrib Oil Ltd. - Section 83 notice dated 16th October, 1992, already circulated.
5. Sale of plot of land to Mr. Gabriel Gardner - Section 83 notice dated 3rd October, 1992, already circulated.
6. Fix date for December Monthly Meeting.
7. Overdraft approval for 6 months ending 30th June, 1993.
8. Section 59 Agreement between Galway County Council and Galway Corporation in relation to Phase 3 of Galway Eastern Approach Road.
9. Co-Operation North - Local Authority Twinning Programme.
10. Guaranteed Irish Promotion.

11. Amenity Grants 1992.
12. Meeting of Sheep Dipping Committee of Connaught Counties and Donegal - Athlone - 10th December, 1992.
13. "Connemara West" Celebrations - Contribution by County Council.
14. Business submitted by the County Manager.
15. Business submitted by the Chairman.

COUNCILLORS NOTICES OF MOTION:

Adjourned from previous Meeting:

COUNCILLOR S. GAVIN: - I will propose:

16. That repairs be carried out to the road leading to the houses of Patrick Hanley and Dennis Callaghan in Poulnaclough, Moycullen.

DEPUTY P. McCORMACK: - I will propose:

17. That the Council carry out work to alleviate the road flooding problem outside (name and address supplied) as this is causing great annoyance.

SENATOR EAMONN O'CUIV: - I will propose:

18. That the road from the main Toombeola to Roundstone road as far as the bridge into Inishnee be taken in charge by Galway County Council.

OTHER MOTIONS RECEIVED:

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM: - I will propose:

19. That Galway County Council take away the corner on the right hand side directly at the junction in the village. If you are coming from the Church Road and going to Loughrea, you have no view whatsoever and it is very dangerous.
20. Junction at the Loughrea side of Mahony's shop at Castleboy that the trees and hedges be cut and taken away in order to give a view for people coming on to the road at this very dangerous junction and bend.

COUNCILLOR S. GAVIN: - I will propose:

21. That a flooding difficulty near the home of Mr. Tim Gavin in Tonabucky be investigated and hopefully resolved.

COUNCILLOR M. FAHY AND COUNCILLOR M. CUNNINGHAM: - We will propose:

22. That Galway County Council apply the roster system for Gort Fire Brigade which gives a service to all of South Galway. This increase of staff is urgently required to give this fire service more efficient scope in their duty to the community. The people of South Galway earnestly request improvements in the service.

COUNCILLOR W. BURKE: - I will propose:

23. That the present situation with regard to the £60,000 allocation for repairs to be carried out at Kilmeen Cross -
- (a) Who actually prevented the work going ahead and why?
 - (b) What will the £60,000 now be used for?
 - (c) When is it hoped that the work at Kilmeen will be carried out?
 - (d) How long do Compulsory Purchase Orders take on average?
 - (e) I propose that the £60,000 should be held in an account by Galway County Council until the work can be commenced at Kilmeen Cross.
24. That Go Slow signs should be erected at the approach road in Gurteeny Village.
25. That the 1993 Budget Allocations for Leach Engineering Area be based on a per mile basis.

DEPUTY P. CONNAUGHTON: - I will propose:

26. That Galway County Council earmark adequate funding in 1993 to widen and repair the bridge on the Roscommon side of Ballygar on the Galway/Roscommon Road principally to assist traffic flow and to improve the visual impact of this approach to the town.

COUNCILLOR C. NI FHATHARTA: - I will propose:

27. That Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe include the repair and extension of the footpaths in An Cheathru Ruà Village in the 1993 Estimates.
28. That Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe provide a light at Leitirmeallain Crossroads in the 1993 Estimates. The Young and old getting off buses at the crossroads find it dangerous on dark winter days.
29. That Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe make funds available in the 1993 Estimates to complete the repairs to the Drum, Trabane, Tiernee Link Road.

COUNCILLOR J. McDONAGH: - I will propose:

30. That County Council undertake to repair road (details supplied).
31. That County Council undertake to repair road (details supplied).
32. That County Council undertake to repair road (details supplied).

COUNCILLOR S. O'NEACHTAIN: - I will propose:

- 33. That the wall at the following location be put back as it was prior to roadworks being carried out. (Details supplied.)
- 34. That the County Council take action to eliminate flooding at the following location.
- 35. That roadway to Faherty's cottage, Ballywilliam, Spiddal, be maintained by the Council as this seems to be Council property. The cottages in question are a Council housing scheme.

COUNCILLOR P. McHUGH: - I will propose:

- 36. That Galway County Council make the N84 the top priority for National Secondary Route improvement works in 1992 and that any special supplemental grant received by the County Council be spent on this road.
- 37. That Galway County Council provide "Major Junction Ahead" sign at the Gurrane Road - Tuam/Galway road intersection.
- 38. That Galway County Council carry out improvements to allow traffic movements without current difficulty due to narrow road. (Details supplied.)

39. COUNCILLOR MICHAEL FAHY: - I will propose:

That Galway County Council request Department of Justice impose a 30 m.p.h. at Oranmore through Rinville to Golf Course Leisure Park and the Quay.

- 40. That Galway County Council replace sub-standard footpaths and replace all old lights in the Square at Ardrahan. Also to put lights on the Kinvara Road and the Loughrea Road at Ardrahan. Also to tarmac The Square and to put footpaths on the Loughrea Road and the Kinvara Road. There will also be a requirement for speed ramps to slow down speed each side of the village at N.18, Ardrahan.

COUNCILLOR PAT O'SULLIVAN: - I will propose:

- 41. (1) Footpaths at Derrymullen, Ballinasloe.
(2) Provision of a Footbridge on the town side of the Railway Station at Ballinasloe.

I will propose that the monies be provided immediately for the completion of the footpaths at Derrymullen, Ballinasloe. It is not fair on the people who have built their houses and have paid planning and service charges to state that the footpaths will only be completed when all the houses are built. The footpaths are in a terrible state at present. Please ensure that these works are carried out as soon as possible.

The provision of a Footbridge at the above mentioned location is, in my opinion now a matter of life or death. What is most annoying is the fact that since 1988 a bridge has been lying at the site, decaying. As well as the danger it is also a waste of public funds to see this happening.

I hope these two items will be attended to immediately.

Galway County Council

Handwritten notes and signatures, including a signature that appears to be 'Michael Fahy'.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ESTIMATES MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, GALWAY, ON MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 1992.

IN THE CHAIR: (a) Councillor M. Mullins
(b) Councillor S. Gavin.

ALSO PRESENT: Members: As recorded in the Attendance Book.

Councillors J. Brennan, T. Byrne, J. Callanan, M. Cunningham, M. Fahy, M. Finnerty, Senator T. Hussey, Councillors M. Loughnane, J. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, P. McHugh, C. Ni Fhatharta, S. O'Neachtain, M. O'Neill, P. O'Sullivan, P. O'Tuathail, K. Quinn, M. Regan, M. Ryan, E. Varley and T. Walsh.

Officials: Messrs. S. Keating, County Manager; P.J. Gavin, Assistant County Manager; P. Flood, County Engineer; J. Crotty, Deputy County Engineer; E. Lusby, Finance Officer; T. Coughlan, Administrative Officer; and T. Kavanagh, County Secretary.

The Opening Prayer was recited.

CONGRATULATIONS:

The Chairman complimented Councillor Fahy on his fund raising event in Ardahan and Councillor Fahy thanked everybody for their support.

On the proposition of Councillor Regan, seconded by the Chairman, a vote of congratulations was passed to Sarsfields Hurling Club on winning the County Senior Hurling Championship. Compliments were also paid to the Carnmore Team.

Councillor Cunningham proposed a vote of congratulations to the Gort Minor Hurling Team on winning the County Championship.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

On the proposition of Councillor Varley, a vote of sympathy was adopted with the family of the late Mrs. Ann Murray, Knockrackery, Roscommon.

On the proposition of Councillor Fahy, a vote of sympathy was adopted with Mr. John Cunningham, Editor, Connacht Tribune Ltd., on the recent death of his father.

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PAGE 2 MINUTES OF ESTIMATES MEETING ON 16/11/1992.

Resolutions of sympathy were also adopted with the following.

Ms. Maire Ni Suibhne, Coill Bruachláin, Maigh Cuilinn, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Mr. Wm. Ward, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Kathleen Reilly, Beaghmore, Belclare, Tuam.

ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1993:

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A copy of the Book of Estimates and explanatory reports had been circulated to each Member in accordance with statutory requirements.

Some Members looked for clarification as to when further Estimates Meetings would be held and it was agreed that further meetings would be held on 30th November, 1992, and 4th December, 1992.

The County Manager then outlined the details of the documents accompanying the Estimates. He said that during the discussions, all Programmes in the Estimates would be open for discussion and Councillors were free to discuss any of them. He then went through his own statement saying that the material accompanying the Estimates was somewhat different than previous years. This was due to the fact that a report on Council services was now included in the Statutory Annual Report which must be published before the 30th June, each year. There was also another change in the format of the Estimate which had been stipulated by the Department of the Environment in relation to Capital spending. It is now a requirement that expenditure on improvement works on the National Primary and National Secondary Roads are excluded from the Revenue Account and included in the Capital Account. The total expenditure for 1993 is estimated at £41,007,542.

The County Manager said that the Estimate was compiled on the basis of a rate increase of 5% and a similar increase in water charges resulting in a rate in the pound of £27.27. The table in the statement shows the affect of any adjustment of the proposed rate increase of 5%. The Rate Support Grant for 1993, as notified by the Department of the Environment, is £7,340,089 representing a net increase of 2.75% over the current years grant. The County Manager referred to the increasing problem of maintaining Capital Schemes and said that he had brought this to the attention of the Department on a number of occasions. He gave as an example the cost of maintaining the Tuam Sewerage Scheme when completed would cost £130,000 in a full year. He said the Council had an enormous Programme of Sanitary Services Schemes at an advanced stage of planning and these were shown in an Appendix at the back. The County Manager said that the Road

Grants had not yet been notified and unless there was a substantial State Grant for the Improvement of County Roads, it was inevitable that the funds available for County Roads would be inadequate. He referred to new legislation which the Council had to implement and in particular, the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act. He said that the Council had operations dispersed throughout the whole County, and therefore, the legislation would involve the Council in major expenditure which, as yet, has not been fully estimated. He said that a full report on requirements would be prepared early in 1993, and as some of the work would be of a Capital nature, consideration would be given to applying to the Department of the Environment for Capital funding.

The County Manager said that no provision was made in the Estimates for refuse collection. The only area where the Council operated a refuse service was in the Connemara Area, the rest of the County having been privatised. The private system was working satisfactorily and there were now Private Operators interested in servicing the Connemara Area. This would come into operation on the 1st January, 1993, and the Council staff would be assigned other duties. The County Manager then referred to the report prepared by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in relation to the distribution of the Rate Support Grant, which report had been considered by the Council. Based on the criteria used in the report, it showed that Galway County Council was under-funded and not getting its fair share. He said that he had urged the Department of the Environment to begin the process of equality but it was apparent from the Rate Support Grant notified that the report was not being implemented. The County Manager thanked the Chairman and Members for their support during the year, and the Finance Officer and other staff involved in the preparation of the Estimates.

At this point, it was agreed that Members could offer to speak on any part of the Estimates. Councillor Byrne welcomed the 2.75% increase in the Rate Support Grant but was concerned that it was below other cost increases such as payments under the PESP Agreement and the maintenance of new Capital Schemes. He said it was obvious from the Fiscal Studies Report that Galway was not getting its due share and the funds available were inadequate to carry out all the necessary works. Referring to the proposed 5% increase in Rates and Water Charges, Councillor Byrne said that the business people and others would not be able to afford such an increase. He said that expenditure would have to be curtailed in some area in order to reduce the increase. He supported the County Manager in trying to get funding for the maintenance of new Capital Schemes. He said he was disappointed that there was no provision for new

public lighting as there were many small towns in need of extra lighting and some provision would have to be made.

The Chairman complimented the County Manager and Staff on the detailed Estimate Report. He said that the Council was facing a difficult year in maintaining and trying to enhance the services. While the 2.75% increase in the Rate Support Grant was welcome, it left the Council in some difficulty. He said that the 5% increase in Rates was not sustainable. Rates was a major issue for business people in towns like Ballinasloe and elsewhere. Business people were going through a difficult time, and it seemed that obstacles were being put in their way, because if they carried out small improvements, the premises were re-valued resulting in increased valuation and rates. The Chairman referred to the potential cost of maintaining the new Tuam Sewerage Scheme and said that the maintenance of further Capital Schemes will cause serious difficulties for the Council. He also foresaw major costs in the implementation of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act for the Council. He said that the lack of adequate public lighting was a serious problem around the County, and he hoped that resources could be got from somewhere to alleviate the problem.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR GAVIN, TOOK THE CHAIR AT THIS TIME.

Councillor Callanan welcomed the increase in the Rate Support Grant but said that the proposed increase of 5% on Rates and Water Charges was not acceptable. He said the Council would have to pursue the implementation of the Fiscal Studies Report. He welcomed the increase in the Essential Repair Grants and Disable Persons Grants. In regard to house repairs, he asked would a new purchase scheme help to relieve the situation. He said that some provision should be made for public lighting.

Councillor McHugh said that the Council would have to pursue a determined effort to get some results from the Fiscal Studies Report. He said that he would have difficulty with the proposed increases in commercial rates and water charges, and that commercial rates were a very penal charge. He said that a 5% increase would be unbearable. He said that the sum of £365,000 for house repairs was an enormous figure and there must be some better way of doing this work. He said he was aware of people who painted their own houses and they should get credit for this and that people who let their houses go into disrepair should be penalised. He complimented the housing staff for the work they are doing. In regard to roads, Councillor McHugh said that he was not prepared to wait any longer to have the Curragh Line road

improved and he would be proposing that the Supplementary Grant be spent on it. He said he would like more information in relation to the public lighting renewal programme. He said that he disagreed with the proposed expenditure for Rinville Park as there were many estates with no amenities. He said he would like more information in relation to the Bank Charges, and in regard to Courthouses, he said that the Council can no longer tolerate the cost of maintaining Courthouses.

Councillor Brennan asked if property valuations had been altered in the past year and was informed by the County Manager that re-valuation was an on-going process where improvements were carried out. The County Manager also gave Councillor Brennan details of the increases due under the PESP. Councillor Brennan said that the increases were above the 2.75% increase in Rate Support Grant, and that the Council's proposed 5% increase was not in line with inflation. Councillor Brennan then proposed the following two motions:

"That this Council calls on the Department of the Environment to provide adequate and realistic funding to cover the cost of the maintenance of sanitary services schemes."

"That this Council calls on the Department of the Environment to finance Local Government services in this Council adequately and equitably in accordance with the findings of the report from the Institute for Fiscal Studies."

Councillor O'Neill proposed the following amendment to Councillor Brennan's motion:

"That the incoming Government and the Department of the Environment would remove or fully reimburse local authorities for the following items of expenditure:

- (1) Maintenance of Courthouses.
- (2) Pensions for Members of now defunct County Committees of Agriculture.
- (3) Administration of higher education grants.
- (4) Maintenance arising from Capital Expenditure.
- (5) New environmental measures.
- (6) Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Act."

and it was agreed that the amendment be forwarded to the Leader of each Political Party and the Minister for the Environment.

Councillor Fahy said that the Council could not continue to increase rates and water charges year after year. He asked the Finance Officer to consider how the increase in rates and water charges could be raised otherwise. Councillor Fahy said that he was

very pleased with the progress of Rinville Park and the work carried out there. He said it would have a major impact for tourism in the County and coupled with the new Golf Course and other amenities, it would pay dividends. He said he was happy to see the Oranmore Sewerage Scheme and Gort Regional Water Supply Scheme in the priority list. Mr. Gavin, Assistant County Manager, pointed out that the Capital Schemes listed on the blue sheet at the back of the Estimates could only go ahead if funding is provided.

Senator Hussey said that because of the financial constraints, there was very little scope for making changes in the Estimates. The State was contributing 60% of the Budget, and therefore, would have a big say in the spending of it. He said that rates and water charges were posing a heavy burden and that business in small towns was suffering. He said that an increase in the region of 2.75% might be acceptable. He said that the County was not getting its fair share of government grant and that it would be difficult to continue the Capital Sanitary Programme unless funds were provided for maintenance.

Duirt an Comhairleoir O'Neachtain gur thuig se gur obair mor e na Meastachan a chur le cheile but for la new Councillor it was an intricate document and more of the same. The 60% State Subvention begged the question in regard to local authority funding. He said that dependence on State Funding was not healthy and it was time an alternative system was investigated. He said he could not understand why services could not be improved and reform was long overdue. He said that there were some serious omissions from the Capital Programme such as the Inishmore Water Supply Scheme. Councillor Varley complained about the public lighting in Headford. She said the private refuse service was operating very satisfactorily.

Councillor McDonagh said that the system of financing of local authorities was out-moded and out-dated, and the Council was facing a dilemma. He said that County Roads were in a dreadful condition and if they are not maintained on a yearly basis, repairs are much more expensive in the long run. He said that the Fiscal Studies Report raised some hope but that a regional strategy was needed for the West to improve the situation. At present, all Structural Funds are geared towards the East. He said that the Government had an opportunity to do something when it undertook the study on Local Government Reform, but nothing happened. He said that the new government should be asked to set up regional authorities and this would help the west to prosper. He said he would like to see funding made available for amenities at Myles Park, Corofin, and the Museum at Lackagh. He said that public lighting in rural areas was also a

priority.

Councillor O'Neill requested clarification about the privatisation of the refuse service in Connemara and asked if the existing routes would continue, and if new routes would be serviced. He said that the tag system worked well and that some people brought the bags into centres but this could not be done with bins. Councillor O'Neill said that there was a major problem with roads in the Clifden area, and he pointed out that none of the Supplementary Grant went into the Clifden Area in 1992.

Councillor Quinn welcomed the inclusion of Williamstown Sewerage Scheme in the Priority List. She said she could not support the proposed increase in rates and water charges. She said that there were many small villages where public lighting was badly needed. Councillor O'Tuathail said that the Council was becoming redundant and that little was happening in areas like housing. He said that people were put into demountable dwellings 20 years ago and are still in them. The population of Galway was an ageing one and Western Health Board was not planning for it. He said there seemed to be a change in the priority of water schemes and asked about the scheme from Gleannicmurrin, and also the Camus Scheme. He agreed with Councillor O'Neill in relation to roads and said that because his area got supplementary grant monies, it got nothing else. He said that money was being spent where it was not needed. He asked if there was any money provided for developing land acquired for burial grounds. In regard to rates, he said that businesses in small villages were suffering at the expense of those in cities where they qualified for various types of remissions and were taking business from the rural areas.

Councillor Cunningham welcomed the inclusion of Gort Regional Water Supply Scheme in the Priority List. He asked that provision be made for public lighting at Church Street and Canon Quinn Memorial Park. He said he had reservations about the proposed increases in rates and water charges, and said that it was necessary to develop an area for carparking in Gort. He said that some roadwork was done at Ardmullivan Castle, but it was left unfinished and it should now be completed.

Councillor Ryan said that he had received many complaints from business people about increased valuations. He said that these people were forced to carry out improvements by the Western Health Board and in some cases, the valuation increases were substantial. He said that there were a very large number of group schemes in the County, and if they were to be taken over by the Council, it could generate a lot of income. He said that many County

Roads were subject to flooding and he was aware of two accidents resulting from this, and asked the County Engineer to give this priority. He said that public lighting in many villages was outdated and needed improvement and recommended that some Notice of Motion Money should be allowed towards public lighting. He mentioned in particular the College in Mountbellew. Councillor Ryan said that he attended a meeting recently in Kilkerrin where there was criticism of the Council because of the condition of the road leading to the graveyard. He said that Councillors had allocated Notice of Motion Money to it and the Area Engineer agreed to back this up, but this had not happened yet. Councillor Ryan asked the County Engineer to provide "Stop" signs at Castletown, Kilkerrin crossroads and also at Clonberne crossroads (Burkes).

Councillor Ni Fhatharta criticised the maintenance of burial grounds. As regards the privatisation of the refuse collection, she asked if the routes would now be extended to include areas like Camus. She said she was not in favour of increasing water charges and was disappointed that there was no provision for public lighting. She said she favoured the improvements at Rosmuc Swimming Pool with the assistance of other Agencies.

The Chairman, Councillor Gavin, said the consensus seemed to be that nobody approved of the proposed 5% increase on rates and water charges. He said it was obvious that local authorities were under-funded, and there was a strong case for reform. He welcomed the privatisation of the refuse collection service and asked that the taking over of group schemes be investigated. He asked the Finance Officer to see if cutbacks could be made to avoid the 5% increase.

Before the Meeting adjourned, the Chairman allowed Councillor O'Neill to raise a matter from the previous Meeting. Councillor O'Neill said that he was late arriving at the Council Meeting on the 13th November, and he wished to refer to something which was discussed before he arrived. He referred to the Statement dated 11th November, 1992, by the County Manager in reference to statements made at Meeting on 23rd October, 1992, about Cluain Mhuire. Councillor O'Neill said that he was appalled at the statements made against him by the Manager. He said he never used any remarks which were defamatory or offensive and his criticism was directed at Section 16 of the City and County Management (Amendment) Act, 1955. He said the Minutes bore this out. He said he had always prefaced his remarks by saying that he was not questioning anybody's integrity. Councillor O'Neill asked the County Manager to consider what he (Councillor O'Neill) had said together with his own statement.

The County Manager thanked Councillor O'Neill for his statement saying that his remarks were capable of the interpretation he had put on them. The County Manager said that he was pleased to hear Councillor O'Neill's response, which he fully accepted.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

SUBMITTED, APPROVED +
(CONFIRMED):

Michael Hall
CHAIRMAN

21/12/1992

DATE

15/11/92 - 3.30

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
(Galway County Council)

Oifig an Runai,
Arus an Chontae,
GAILLIMH.

2u la Samhain, 1992.

CHUIG GACH BALL DE'N CHOMHAIRLE/

A Chara:

You are requested to attend the Statutory Estimates Meeting of Galway County Council which will be held at the County Buildings, Galway, on Monday, 16th November, 1992, commencing at 3.30 p.m.

Mise, le meas,

T. O'CAOMHANAIGH,
RUNAI.

AGENDA

1. Consideration and adoption of Estimate of Expenses for year 1993. (Copy of Estimate and of County Manager's Report herewith).
2. Determination in accordance with the Estimate of Expenses adopted of the rates in the pound to be levied for the several purposes specified in the Estimate for the financial year ending 31st December, 1993.
3. Making of Charges for Water supplied by Galway County Council for domestic purposes in respect of the period commencing 1st April, 1993, up to and including the 31st March, 1994.
4. Making and Sealing of Demand on Ballinasloe Urban District Council.
