



MINUTES

FOR THE

ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTORS
MEETING

HELD ON

TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2013



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL
ELECTORS MEETING HELD IN OCEAN ROOM,
IRWIN RECREATION CENTRE ON
TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2013
COMMENCING AT 5.30PM**

PRESENT:	President	Cr S C Chandler (Presiding Member)
	Councillors	Cr I F West (Deputy President) Cr K J Hepworth Cr D R Kennedy Cr M Leonard Cr R J Porteus Cr B C Scott Cr M T Smith
	Staff	Mr D J Simmons - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr G M Peddie – Director Corporate and Community Ms S van Aswegen – Director Planning and Infrastructure Ms N Nelson – Manager Tourism and Library Services Mr F A Neuweiler – Manager Community Safety Mrs C M Palmer – Manager Community Services Mr L G Smith – Manager Recreation Services Mrs H M Sternick – Manager Corporate Services Mr A S Wootton – Manager Works Ms E Greaves – Executive Assistant
GALLERY:		Mr Peter and Mrs Annette Pendlebury Mr John Rossiter Mr Murray Brown
APOLOGIES:		Mr Kevan Dennis
LEAVE OF ABSENCE:		-

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President, Cr Stuart Chandler, declared the meeting open at 5.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr Kevan Dennis advised of his apologies through Mr John Rossiter.

3. 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT

The Director Corporate and Community provided the following comments in regards to the 2012/13 Financial Statements;

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Operating Statement)

The Shire finished the year with an operating surplus of \$7.5m compared to an expected surplus of \$1.2m. There are two items that have impacted on Council's operations to affect this result.

- Recognition of Land and Associated Infrastructure brought about due to changes in accounting regulations, being
 - Golf Course \$2,124,000
 - Race Club \$1,199,000
- \$3,323,000**
- Revaluation of Roads **\$2,111,269**
 - Revaluation of Plant and Equipment **\$ 945,327**

Total Equity (Financial Position)

The total equity or worth of the Shire increased by \$7.5m to \$58.1m due to capital works and purchases during the year as well as the operating surplus and asset recognition and revaluations noted above.

Rates

This year an amount of \$4.124m was raised in rates compared to a budget provision of \$4.027m. The additional \$97,000 can be attributed to new mining tenements that were registered, and an extra \$100,000 was transferred into the Building Reserve Account for use on capital projects in future years.

Cash Backed Reserve Funds

During the year an additional \$386,000 was transferred into the Reserve Funds to a total of over \$2.73, mainly into the Building Reserve. This came from interest earned, being \$101,000 and increased mining rates of \$250,000 and coastal management fees of \$20,000.

Loans

No new loans were raised during the year. As at 30 June 2013 the Shire has 4 loans outstanding with a total liability of \$3.721m. Two of the loans are self supporting loans to the Race Club and Tennis Club.

The remaining loans are related to construction of the Recreation Centre with an annual repayment of \$304,000. One of the loans is an interest only loan of \$1,000,000 which is payable by September 2015. Council has funds available in the Building Reserve to pay of this loan when due.

Capital Works

During the year Council expended \$2.8m on capital costs, the majority being on roads and other infrastructure (\$2.1m), Plant and Equipment (\$500,000), and buildings and furniture and equipment.

Current Asset Account

At the end of June 2013 the Shire had \$1.5m in cash and an additional \$392,000 in outstanding rates and debtors and \$700 in liabilities. The large proportion of the cash on hand is prepaid Grants Commission funds and other unspent grant funding to be brought forward into 2013/14 to be spent on specific projects. Other funds relate to unfinished projects also brought forward into the new year.

The Director Corporate and Community added that Council's Auditors did not find any issues of non-compliance for the Audit Report or any matters to include in the Management letter. Mr Peddie congratulated the Finance Team on a job well done.

The Manager Corporate Services, Helen Sternick provided further comment in regards to revaluation and fair value which was a new component to the financial regulations and therefore the audit process. This deals with crown land under local government control.

Mr Pendlebury enquired as to whether there was any financial impact for including these assets.

The Director Corporate and Community advised that this component was cash neutral.

Mr Rossiter enquired as to whether this meant that Council would be responsible for those buildings that have now been included.

The Director Corporate and Community responded that responsibility for management of the buildings on Council land is dealt with as part of the lease process.

Mr Rossiter further enquired as to whether Council could then use the land.

It was clarified that Council could use their land however, similar to a residential lease, this would require consent from the lessee.

The Shire President thanked Mr Peddie and Mrs Sternick for their comments and the gallery for their enquiries.

Cr Chandler thought it appropriate to announce the Employee of the Month for October 2013 as Helen Sternick for; working hard individually to consistently meet deadlines and produce work of a high standard, for managing her team well to achieve outcomes within Corporate Services, and for always providing assistance and support to colleagues within the organisation. Helen has a well developed relationship with all staff, who see her as a valuable, reliable and respected staff member.

MEETING OF ELECTORS RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Mr Aaron Wootton

SECONDED: Mr Peter Pendlebury

That the Shire of Irwin's Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2013 be accepted.

CARRIED

4. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY ELECTORS

Nil

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Rossiter commented that the TV drop off program was a great success and enquired as to whether a large item verge pick up will be arranged?

The Chief Executive Officer advised that the Shire is commencing a Waste Management Review which address the communities need to hold such a program. Logistics and costs of running a verge pick up are high and therefore it needs to be considered thoroughly.

The Manager Community Safety advised that there are regional discussions being held in regards to a regional solution of recycling which includes kerb side pick ups.

The Chief Executive Officer suggested that a submission under the Community Assistance Scheme could be made to offer assistance to pensioners in disposing of large items.

Mr Rossiter commented that a good AM radio transmission has not been available to Shire of Irwin residents and asked whether the existing tower could be used to improve radio reception for both AM and FM frequencies.

The Chief Executive Officer advised of the significant cost to ratepayers to provide this as the tower would require a significant upgrade and ongoing maintenance to provide the relevant digital signal.

Mr Rossiter raised that the community has been provided with several box ticking surveys to determine community needs however asked when an open community forum could be held to find out community desires and needs.

Mr Rossiter was reminded that there had been a number of community forums, with the initial Strategic Community Plan (SCP) development which covered these needs and now we are presenting opportunities to the community for comment/feedback on projects that are outcomes of the SCP.

Council Meetings also allow for the public to make enquiries regarding ongoing and new projects, of which Mr Rossiter regularly utilises.

Residents are encouraged to contact us over the counter, email and by phone in regards to any issues, comments and feedback.

No feedback has been received that Council does not provide enough opportunity for the community to discuss needs and wants nor has there been a demand for such open public forums.

Mr Pendlebury commented that he had not seen any information regarding the Council Chambers renovations in the Local Rag.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that there had been notification however provided the meeting with a brief overview of the scope and progress of the project. He also advised that the Shire would provide a progress report to the Rag to include in a coming issue of the Rag as well as our other various forms of media.

Mr Rossiter enquired whether the Rag have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shire, like the one produced for the Pottery Club.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that an MOU is on place however it is Council's intention to ensure there is a consideration for recognition of the Shire for providing support through the provision of reduced rent.

6. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, the Presiding Member thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6:00pm.