

Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Budget Meeting held on Thursday November 5th, 2015, at 3.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Present:

Councillors: J. Breen, T. Mc Namara, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, M. Howard, P. Murphy, and C. Colleran Molloy.

Officials: Gerard Dollard, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Town Engineer, Catherine O’ Hara, Meetings Administrator and Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Ennis Municipal District 2016 in accordance with Circular Fin 08/2015-2016 and Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 226 of 2014 – Local Government (financial & Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 and Circular Fin 05/2014 Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 and associated budget related matters.

Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. P. Daly welcomed everyone to the budget meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis.

Ger Dollard, Director of Services, explained that this budget meeting was to consider the proposed budget of €54,400 for 2016 for the Municipal District of Ennis, which is exactly the same amount as last year. He advised that last, year due to surplus funds which were available through the NPPR charge that, an additional €50,000 was made available to the Municipal District of Ennis Committee. However, this would not be the case for 2016. The overall discretionary budget for 2016 would remain at €54,400.

Ger Dollard informed the members that in relation to the Draft budget before them that they could:-

- (a) Adopt GMA as presented
- (b) Seek extra funding, which may be rejected
- (c) Decide not to adopt the budget as presented.

He advised that the Chief Executive has to compile a budget based on the funds that are available. The €54,400 is currently what is available. He added that the Council, must decide how to deliver services with the budget available and the existing staff. The Chief Executive of the Council must adopt a budget for the County.

Cllr. J. Flynn advised that he wished, as was the case last year, to dissent from agreeing the draft budget as proposed. Cllr. Flynn stated that the decision to reduce the Local Property Tax (LPT) has resulted in a loss of funding to the County.

Cllr Colleran Molloy stated that it was an unacceptable proposal and that the abolition of the town councils should never have happened with the result that the power of the public representative to represent was very limited.

Cllr P. Daly stated that he was unhappy with the proposal given the additional requirements involved in hosting the Fleadh in 2016.

Cllr A. Norton agreed that the €54,400 was very small and that she was hoping for additional funding for Ennis & environs, the capital town of the county which requires considerable work to upgrade the town and the environs. She added that there is a need to get government to allocated additional funding.

Cllr. Tom McNamara disputed this and insisted that the LPT was nothing to do with the available budget to County Clare.

Members agreed that a democratic decision was made, at the time, in relation to the LPT and that the committee needed to move on.

Cllr. Tom McNamara, proposed to accept the draft budget, which was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton. However, Cllr. Johnny Flynn proposed not to accept the draft budget, and this was seconded by Cllr. Mary Howard.

As a result a vote took place with the following result:-

For the Proposal: Cllr. T. McNamara, Cllr. A. Norton, Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, Cllr. J. Breen, Cllr. P. Murphy. (6 votes)

Against the Proposal: Cllr. J. Flynn & Cllr. M. Howard. (2 votes)

The Mayor Cllr. Pat Daly declared the proposal as follows was agreed by the members of the Municipal District of Ennis:-

“That pursuant to Circular Fin 08/2015-2016 and Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 226 of 2014 – Local Government (financial & Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 and Circular Fin 05/2014 Local Government (Financial and Audit Procedures) Regulations 2014 the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2016 dated the 20th of October, 2015, as presented by the Chief Executive that the figure of €54,400 for the Ennis Municipal District is hereby adopted”.

The meeting then concluded.