

Municipal District of Tuam – 22nd October 2020
GMA BUDGET MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE GMA BUDGET MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
TUAM HELD AT**

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY

ON 22nd October 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Joe Sheridan

I LÁTHAIR FREISIN Cllr. Colm Keaveney, Cllr. Donagh Killilea, Cllr. Andrew Reddington,
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, Cllr. M Hoade, Cllr. Peter Roche

AS LÁTHAIR

BAILL OIFIGH: Mr. Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr. Jim Cullen, D.O.S.
Infrastructure and Operations, Mr. Damien Mitchell, Senior
Engineer, Mr. John Coyle, S.E.E. Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Meetings
Administrator, Ms. T Gannon, C.O.

MDT200045

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.

Cllr. Joe Sheridan welcomed everyone to the meeting where the Draft Budget for the Municipal District of Tuam 2021 would be discussed.

Mr. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, gave an overview of the budgetary position. He explained that the Council incurred expenditure across many services. These services were part funded by way of Government Grants and income from goods and services. This left a balance referred to as net expenditure which had to be funded. He outlined that the only two sources of funding available to the Council were Local Property Tax (LPT) and Commercial Rates.

In the September plenary meeting the Councillors had elected not to vary the LPT, in addition he outlined that the CPG had requested that the draft budget should not reflect an increase in Commercial Rates. At present, there was no indication of any additional funding being made available from central Government. He also noted that the report presented to the September meeting had indicated that there was an estimated excess of expenditure over the projected income. Given that the LPT and Commercial rates were not being increased he stated that in order to produce a balanced budget, reductions in expenditure would be required and is represented in the draft budget.

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The Roads Grants for budget 2021 would reflect the actual allocations received in 2020 and that this represents an increase over the amounts budgeted for in 2020. The actual roads grants for 2021 would be notified in February 2021 and would be reflected in the schedule of municipal district works and Road Programme for 2021.

Mr. Mullarkey confirmed that on the advice of the CPG the proposed additional funding of €1 Million had not been reflected as part of the MD budgets and would be considered further by the CPG.

He also stated that reductions have been made in discretionary expenditure and housing maintenance, economic grants and the area community. Mr. Mullarkey welcomed the announcement in last week's budget of the extension of the rates waiver from 6 months to 9 months.

Mr. Mullarkey advised that to produce a balanced budget, cuts needed to be made in the areas of discretionary expenditure as noted. He stated that were additional funding to be made available then these would be the first areas where funding would be restored.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheridan, opened the floor to the members for comments.

In general Councillors referred to the increase in roads funding, while insufficient to maintain the entire road network, welcomed that it has increased from previous years. However, the members expressed disappointment at the reduction in the discretionary headings such as maintenance of housing units, economic development and the area of community grants.

Mr. Mullarkey advised that to produce a balanced budget, cuts needed to be made in the areas of discretionary expenditure as noted. He stated that were additional funding to be made available then these would be the first areas where funding would be restored.

Cllr Karey McHugh Farag questioned why the Public Convenience in Tuam is still there and asked for it to be removed. Cllr Donagh Killilea and Cllr. Peter Roche requested that the €20,000 available for public conveniences be put towards community grants and this was agreed by all.

Cllr. Donagh Killilea proposed Motion A

“to amend the draft budget plan 2021 as follows;

- (i) Restore F0401 Community Grants to €21,315 from A0102 €5,655 and A0101 €5,000
- (ii) Restore D0903 Town Twinning to €2000 from B0902 Operation of Street Parking
- (iii) Restore F0301 Parks, Pitches & Opens Spaces to €35,000 from B0901 Car parks
- (iv) Restore D0905 Economic Development and promotion to €2500 from A0102 Housing

Discussions took place amongst the members and a counter proposal, Motion B, by Cllr. P Roche, seconded by Cllr. A. Reddington was made as follows:

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“The €20,000 towards public convenience (C0401) be moved across to Community Grants F0401 & D0905. Distribution of the €20,000 as follows:

€17,750 to community grants F0401 and €2,250 to D0905 Economic Development & Promotion.”

A vote was taken on the counterproposal – Motion B.

For: Cllr. P Roche, Cllr. K McHugh, Cllr. A Reddington, Cllr. C. Keaveney, Cllr. M. Hoade, Cllr. J Sheridan

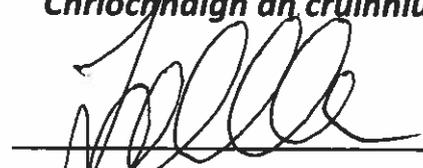
Against: Cllr. D Killilea.

Motion B deemed to be carried.

On the **proposal** of Cllr. K. McHugh Farag, **seconded** by Cllr. M. Hoade, the Draft budget, as amended, was adopted for the Tuam Municipal District.

Chríochnaigh an cruinniú ansin

Approved by:



Cllr. J. Sheridan
Cathaoirleach

Date:

7/12/20