

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLMHE

Ceantar Bardasach Chonamara

Municipal District of Conamara

MINUTES OF CONNEMARA MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING

HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON

MONDAY THE 05TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 2PM

ILATHAIR:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. Seamus Walsh.

BAILL: Comh. / Cllr. G. King, E. Mannion, P. Mac An Iomaire, A. McKinstry, D. Ó Cualáin, T. Ó Curraoin, N. Thomas & T. Welby.

OIFIGH: G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, M. McGovern, Management Accountant, M. Owens, Director of Services, D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, O. McCarthy, Senior Staff Officer/Meetings Administrator & A. Woods, Clerical Officer.

ITEM NO. 1 To consider & adopt (with or without amendment) under Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Conamara, as prepared under the direction of the Chief Executive (Report attached)

CMD21068

Mr. Mullarkey presented the Budget for 2022 for the Conamara Municipal District to the Members. He stated that the income for 2022 will be the same as 2021 but there will be additional demands on expenditure with regard to National Pay Agreements

and other Statutory costs. He said that work is continuing on the Budget for the Plenary Meeting scheduled for the 29th November 2021.

Specifically, the Elected Members raised concerns regarding the areas of the Budget.

- Comh. D. O'Cualain enquired if income was received from the ferry operators using Inis Mor. He noted that the LPT increase would not address the issue of underfunding and Central Government needs to address the underfunding of the Council.
- Comh. O'Curraoin also agreed that the Council was seriously underfunded.
- Comh. Mac an Iomaire noted the reduction in funding for regional roads (B03).
- Cllr. Mannion noted the shortfall in funding and she added that the proposal to increase the local property tax would have helped.
- Cllr. McKinstry described the Municipal District Budget process as meaningless. He also noted that Conamara would be neglected if the City and County were merged.
- Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the consequences of the Council rejecting / not adopting the Plenary Budget.
- Cllr. Walsh also enquired as to the consequences of the Council rejecting / not adopting the Plenary Budget.
- Cllr. King raised his concerns over underfunding and understaffing with the consequence reduction in services.
- Cllr. Welby noted that the financial issues were well known and suggested that no Municipal District budget be presented in future.

The Elected Members all agreed that they would not support the Budget, as to do so would be doing a dis-service to their Electorate. They also expressed concern about Council staffing shortages and the negative effect this was having on Services.

Mr. Mullarkey noted the concerns raised and agreed that the Council was severely underfunded. He said that he was continuing to work with the Chief Executive and the Executive Team with a view to bringing a balanced Draft Budget before the Members for the Plenary Budget Meeting scheduled for the 29th November, 2021.

He stated that if the Municipal District rejected the Draft Budget then the Chief Executive could take account of the Draft Budget in preparing the Statutory Budget. He advised that if the Statutory Budget was not passed by the Council Members at the Plenary Meeting within the prescribed timeframe the Minister may under the legislation dissolve the Council and appoint a Commissioner to carry out the reserved functions.

Cllr. Thomas proposed that the MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET be REJECTED, seconded by Comh. O’Cualain. This was unanimously agreed.

CHRÍOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Submitted Signed and Approved

Cathaoirleach: _____

Seamus Walsh

Date: _____

