

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD IN ARAS AN  
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012 AT 11.00 A.M.**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Councillor	Paul Mitchell	In the Chair
	Councillors	Rotimi Adebari Pat Bowe Ben Brennan James Daly John Joe Fennelly Padraig Fleming Alan Hand Michael Lalor Seamus McDonald Tom Mulhall Brendan Phelan Mary Sweeney	John Bonham Paddy Bracken Ray Cribbin James Deegan Catherine Fitzgerald David Goodwin John King Jerry Lodge John Moran Kathleen O' Brien Martin Phelan

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors William Aird

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messrs Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Josephine Kavanagh, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs, Ms J Bergin, Financial Management Accountant & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

**138. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor Paul Mitchell, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Confrey family on the recent death of Mr. Paddy Confrey, 13 St. Michael's Park, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

It was agreed to have one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

**139. BUDGET 2013**

The County Manager referred the Members to the Draft Budget 2013 which had been prepared and circulated. He outlined the process that had been undertaken in relation to it's preparation. He advised that the preparation of the draft budget had been very challenging and referred in particular to the re-structuring and reduction of staff, with reduced resources, while maintaining an acceptable level of service. He then referred to the meeting held In-Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 when all aspects of the draft budget were discussed in great detail.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance then proceeded to summarise the Council's proposals for 2013 on a division by division basis. He advised that a 10% - 15% reduction had been implemented in many service divisions. Reductions in payroll costs have been achieved through the management of vacancies, the non-replacement of staff, reductions in premium pay and travel expenses and the retirement of many employees. Every effort has been made to minimise the burden on local businesses and consumers by ensuring that there are no increases in commercial rates or water charges.

He indicated that the reduction in the Local Government Fund is €111,724 (0.91% reduction on the 2012 amount of €13,189,788. However, there are further reduced income resources available across a range of headings, in particular, Road Transportation & Safety, Environmental Services and Pensions.

The draft budget provides for revenue spending of €59,908,000 which is the amount required to meet the expenses and to provide for the liabilities and requirements of Laois County Council during the year ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2013.

The Members collectively and individually complemented the staff involved in the preparation of the budget. After a lengthy discussion, during which all questions raised were answered, the Annual Budget for 2013 was unanimously adopted as presented on the proposal of Councillor Rotimi Adebari seconded by Councillor John Bonham.

The County Manager thanked Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial/Management Accountant, the Directors of Service and all staff for the efficiency and professionalism with which the draft budget had been prepared. The County Manager welcomed the support of the Elected Members and acknowledged the flexibility of staff during 2012.

#### **140. PROGRAMME OF CAPITAL WORKS FOR 2013, 2014 and 2015**

The members were circulated with the indicative list of the likely capital projects to be undertaken over the next three years and this was noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**