

**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING, OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON
THE 20TH OF DECEMBER 2004 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AT
11.00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor William Aird In the Chair

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors John Bonham, Paddy Bracken, Ray Cribbin, James Daly, James Deegan, Bill Delaney, John Joe Fennelly, Catherine Fitzgerald, David Goodwin, Thomas Jacob, Michael Lalor, Jerry Lodge, Seamus McDonald, Dick Miller, Paul Mitchell, Michael Moloney, John Moran, Brendan Phelan, Martin Phelan, Michael Rice, Brian Stanley, Mary Sweeney, Michael Turley

Apologies: Councillor Larry Kavanagh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messrs Gerry Gibson County Manager, Martin Daly, A/Director of Services, John Daly, Director of Services, Louis Brennan, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, A/Head of Finance, Gerry Gillen, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Declan Byrne, Director of Services, Ms. Marie O'Hora, A/Assistant Staff Officer

1076. BUDGET 2005

The County Manager referred the Members to the Draft budget 2005 which had been prepared and circulated to the members. He outlined the process that had been undertaken in relation to the preparation of the Draft Budget and he referred to the meeting held in Committee on 17/12/04 when all aspects of the draft budget were discussed in great detail on a programme by programme basis.. The Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Aird, thanked the A/Head of Finance, Mr. Gerry Murphy, for the efficiency and professionalism with which the Draft Budget had been prepared. He advised those in attendance that it was his intention to afford the members an opportunity to examine the Draft Budget programme by programme.

Various members identified particular provisions in the Draft Budget about which they had concerns or queries. In all instances the A/Head of Finance, the County Manager and the appropriate Director of Services outlined the executive's position in relation to those items. The budget provided for expenditure of €54,617,000, an

increase of 8.44% on 2004, rates rise of 6%, a water charge increase of 6% and an increase by five euro per tonne on the landfill.

Councillor John Bonham proposed that the draft Budget be adopted as the budget for 2005 and this was seconded by Councillor James Daly.

Councillor Michael Moloney proposed that the Draft Budget be rejected and that additional funds be included for the Central Heating Initiative by increasing the income from planning applications. However there was no seconder . A brief discussion then ensued in relation to Councillor Moloney's proposal and it was agreed that if there was buoyancy in planning application fees in 2005 then this would be examined during the year with the members.

Following that discussion Councillor Bonham once more moved his motion and the Draft Budget was adopted unanimously.

General Annual Rate on Valuation

The following resolution was adopted on the proposal of Councillor John Bonham, seconded by Councillor James Daly.

"That the rates set out in budget of Laois County Council for the year ending 31st of December 2005 be determined in accordance with the said budget to be the general annual rate on valuation"

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AFFAIRS

DATE: _____