

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2010 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. B. Cowen (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, , D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, T. McKeigue, J. Leahy, T. McLoughlin, S. Moylan-Ryan, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett and L. Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair, C.F.O., Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O., Mr. G. Bruton, A.O., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator and Ms. N.Troy, C.O.

**VOTES OF
SYMPATHY:**

A vote of sympathy was unanimously extended to Mr. Eoghan Lynch, E.P., on the death of his mother, Mrs. Helen Lynch.

The County Manager on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in the vote of sympathy.

**PLAN FOR FIRE AND
EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS, SECTION
26, FIRE SERVICES ACT
1981:**

The Cathaoirleach advised that the sub-committee, established at the September Council Meeting, had met with the executive and union representatives. He advised that the sub-committee’s report was being circulated to the meeting. On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to adjourn the meeting until 2.30pm.

When the meeting resumed Cllr. B. Cowen, Cathaoirleach, read the sub-committee report into the minutes (*report attached*). In addition, Cllr. B. Cowen advised that the committee had noted the County Manager’s comments in relation to the Croke Park Agreement, i.e., that initial indications to him, from the LGMSB, were that it may be a matter for the National Implementation Body (N.I.B.) to recommend to national government re. allocation of monies that accrued from efficiency and productivity measures. Cllr. B. Cowen suggested that the Council, if this became an issue in the future, could make a submission on the matter to the N.I.B.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that at the conclusion of the committee’s meeting with the union representatives he had asked for their response to the proposal *‘that in the event of funding being available and put in place to keep the stations open, and to bring the affected stations to the required manning levels, the union*

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side would be willing to accept the efficiency measures and rostering proposals made by the Council executive'. The union representatives advised that, as the efficiency and rostering proposals were national issues, they wished to refer the matter to the Labour Relations Commission (L.R.C.).

The Cathaoirleach advised that the sub-committee recommendation to the Council was that the elected members ask both parties, the executive and the union, to make a combined referral to the L.R.C and that they, the executive and union, would ask the L.R.C. to intervene in an effort to resolve the dispute at the earliest possible opportunity. He noted that in matters referred under the Croke Park Agreement, a Labour Court recommendation would be binding on both parties.

Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed the sub-committee's motion. He thanked Cllr. B. Cowen for chairing the committee and advised that the report was an accurate reflection of the committee's deliberations.

Cllr. G. Plunkett seconded the motion and urged the executive and unions to refer the matter to the L.R.C. at the earliest opportunity in an effort to ensure that efficiencies were achieved, which would allow the stations to re-open in 2011. The motion was put by the Cathaoirleach and agreed and adopted by the members.

Cllrs. L. Quinn, J. Leahy and S. Moylan-Ryan thanked the executive for their speed in addressing their enquiries and the clarity of the information provided. They expressed their disappointment that the union wished to refer the matter to the L.R.C. They requested that the executive endeavour to have the matter addressed speedily by the L.R.C.

Following a discussion the Cathaoirleach noted that in the absence of efficiencies being achieved the *Plan For Fire And Emergency Operations, Section 26, Fire Services Act 1981* could not be agreed at this time. The findings of the L.R.C., should they be available before the adoption of the 2011 Budget, may impact on the Council's 2011 Budget. He thanked the sub-committee for their time, dedication, commitment and thorough examination of all the issues involved. He acknowledged the executive's contribution and thanked Mr. G. Bruton, A.O., for his assistance.

The County Manager thanked the Cathaoirleach and members of the sub-committee for their time and detailed examination of the issues. He acknowledged that everyone wished to provide a service that was of the highest possible standard and that had regard for the safety of all concerned, within the resources available to the Council. He drew the members' attention to the difficult

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task that was ahead of them in adopting a Budget for 2011 and the difficulty in matching resources with the delivery of services. He noted that all departments were required to achieve efficiencies within their service areas, and the fire service was not exempt from this. He agreed to refer the matter to the L.R.C. at the earliest opportunity.

As there were no other matters arising the Cathaoirleach concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

18TH OCTOBER 2010