

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF IN COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 11TH JANUARY 2010 AT 10 A.M.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. N. Bourke (Presiding), Cllrs. M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, B. Cowen, 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. M. Roche, D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair, C.F.O., Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O., Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant, Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator.

**DRAFT BUDGET
2010 & DRAFT PLAN
FOR FIRE AND
EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS:**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. N. Bourke advised a decision on the adoption of the Draft Budget 2010 was deferred in December to allow the members an opportunity to request further information or clarification in respect of the Budget and the Draft Plan for Fire and Emergency Operations. He acknowledged that Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., had forwarded further clarification on 6th January 2010. He informed the members that in accordance with the legislation the members would have to adopt the Budget 2010 by the end of the day, 11th January.

He invited Mr. F. Heslin to give an overview of the circulated report. A discussion on the matter ensued and clarification on the following issues was discussed: the finances associated with the Kilcormac Fire Brigade service; the nationally agreed staffing levels; numbers required for call outs; and the costs of redundancies that would be involved should a station be closed. Mr. F. Heslin confirmed that the Council had met with the Trade Union and that the Council would proceed with negotiations on the introduction of rosters and other changes to work practices. He reiterated that it was not possible to provide the fire service in its current format on a budget of €3.3m.

The County Manager advised the members that the Council’s resources would be severely strained in addressing the outcome of the recent harsh weather conditions and the costs involved for repair to roads and

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OPERATIONS (cont'd):**

water services. These demands need to be considered during their deliberations on the Budget 2010.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that the meeting adjourn until 12 noon and that consideration be given to:

- (i) Agreeing the budget as circulated with a €3.3m budget for the Fire Services and adopt the Draft Plan for Fire and Emergency Operations or
- (ii) Re-assign finances from other service areas to the Fire Services programme and allow for further time for the Executive to negotiate better efficiencies within the service. A decision on the Draft Fire and Emergency Operations would be deferred until these negotiations were concluded.

The members agreed to adjourn the meeting until 12 noon.

On the resumption of the meeting Cllr. E. Dooley proposed that a further provision of €250,000 be provided for the Fire Service and that a decision on the Draft Plan for Fire and Emergency Operations be deferred for six (6) months to allow the Executive an opportunity to negotiate further efficiencies within the Fire Service.

Following a discussion on the budget cuts to the various services the members agreed as follows:

Arts	Grants to other bodies	- €6,500
	Tullamore Arts Centre	- €2,000
	Oxmanstown Hall	- €1,500
Economic Development		- €10,000
Housing Maintenance		-28,750
Shinrone Library		- €5,000
Library Book Fund		- €20,000
Swimming Pools		- €2,000
Water Services		- €40,000
Environment	Litter	- €80,000
	Climate Change	- €20,000
	Tidy Towns	- €13,000
	Clean Up Week	- €11,250
Tourism Promotion		- €10,000
Fire Services		+ €250,000

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2010 & DRAFT PLAN
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OPERATIONS (cont'd):**

The County Manager noted that the Fire Service would be operated in accordance with Health and Safety regulations and that every effort would be made to achieve greater efficiencies in the delivery of the service. He agreed to provide the members with an update at the June Council Meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH RUNAÍ

15th FEBRUARY 2010