

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**  
**MINUTES OF STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING**  
**OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE**  
**ON MONDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> 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 the Statutory Budget Meeting was being resumed to consider the Draft Budget 2010 and that in accordance with the legislation the last opportunity for the members’ to adopt the Budget 2010 was today, 11<sup>th</sup> January. He informed the members’ he proposed to address the two (2) items on the agenda, i.e., Draft Budget 2010 and the Draft Plan For Fire And Emergency Operations together. He noted that a number of meetings had been held to try a reach a position that would provide the best service for Offaly. He acknowledged that there was a demand on resources and that this demand would be compounded by the recent damage done to roads and water services as a result of the bad weather. He cautioned the members that there is a need to balance the resources assigned to all the services while at the same time a need to operate an efficient fire service that meets Health and Safety requirements.

Cllr. E. Dooley seconded the proposal to address the Draft Budget 2010 and the Draft Plan For Fire And Emergency Operations together. He proposed that the Budget 2010 be adopted with the following changes to the Head of Finance’s report dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009:

<b>DRAFT BUDGET 2010 &amp; DRAFT PLAN FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (cont'd)</b>	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
			Other	- €1,250
		Tourism Promotion		- €10,000
		Fire Services		+ €250,000

He proposed that the allocation of an addition sum of €250,000 would allow the Fire Service to be operated in a safe and efficient manner. The allocation of the €250,000 sum was conditional on further efficiencies being achieved and being reported to the members within six (6) months. Should no progress on achieving sufficient efficiencies be reported by the County Manager the sum of €250,000 would be reallocated to other programmes at that time, in particular roads and water, having regard to the effects of the current adverse weather.

**ADOPTION OF  
THE BUDGET 2010**

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the resolution to adopt the draft Budget 2010 as amended by the County Manager in his supplementary Budget Report, dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the Head of Finance's report dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and in accordance with his proposed reallocation of €250,000 was passed.

**ADOPTION OF  
THE GENERAL  
ANNUAL RATE OF  
VALUATION**

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the resolution to adopt the general annual rate of valuation to be levied at 56.7658 was passed. This represented no increase on the 2009 general annual rate of valuation.

**DRAFT PLAN FOR  
FIRE AND  
EMERGENCY  
OPERATIONS**

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the members' agreed to defer a decision on the Draft Plan for Fire and Emergency Operations until June 2010.

**CONCLUDING  
REMARKS**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. N. Bourke, welcomed that there was no increase in the general annual rate of valuation. He acknowledged the work of the outdoor staff, the officials and all involved in providing the services during the recent bad weather. He acknowledged the offer of grit made by Loughnane Concrete to the Council and general public and thanked Mr. Aidan Larkin, IFA for his offers of assistance during this period. He thanked all the staff involved in preparing the budgets and in providing the supplementary reports.

The County Manager thanked the members' for their time and effort in adopting the Budget 2010. He advised that every effort would be made to engage with staff in an effort to achieve efficiencies in the Fire Service. He recognised that they had received an additional budget while other services were required to work with a reduced budget. He advised that the recent bad weather and the resulting deterioration of the roads and the water services network would impact severely on their budgets. He agreed to report to provide the members with regular budget reports. He thanked the members and joined with them in expressing their appreciation of staff involved in emergency and salting operations and all those involved in service provision during the recent bad weather.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

\_\_\_\_\_ **RUNAÍ**

**15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**