

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE
MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING FOR GALWAY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD AT ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY
12th DECEMBER 2018 AT 2.00 P.M

LATHAR:

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Comh. Seán O'Tuairisg
Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway

BAILL:

Cllrs. J. Byrne, N. Byrne, Burke, Connelly, Canning, Charity, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Cronnelly, Comh. O'Cualáin, Cllrs. Cuddy, Cunniffe, Donnellan, Donohue, Fahy, Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Finnerty, Healy, Hoade, Hynes, Joyce, Kearney, Keaveney, Killilea, Kinane, Maher, Mannion, McClearn, K. McHugh, T. McHugh, Noone, Roche, Thomas, Walsh & Welby.

OIFIGIGH:

Mr. Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive, Mr. G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Service, Ms. E. Ruane, Director of Service, Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Service, Ms. C. Delaney, A/County Secretary & Meetings Administrator, Mr. M. McGovern, Management Accountant, Mr. S. Groarke, Administrative Officer, Ms F. Mitchell, Staff Officer, Ms C. Walsh CO

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

3328

Resolutions of sympathy were extended to the following:

Aine Ridge, Doire Chodl, Casla, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Lally Family, Kingsland, Athenry, Co Galway

Sarah Bean Uí Chonghaile, Muinmeach Idír Dhá

Bhaile,Camus, Casla, Co na Gaillimhe

Máire Bean Uí Chonghaile, Muinmeach Idír Dhá

Bháile,Camus, Casla, Co na Gaillimhe

Josie O'Cualáin, Corr-na Rón, Indreabhán, Co na Gaillimhe.

Michael Cunningham, Biggera, Belclare, Tuam, Co.

Galway.

Sean & Michael Mullins, The Square, Gort, Co Galway.

Michael Hanley, Caherhugh, Belclare, Tuam, Co Galway.

Christopher Ryan, Sunnyside, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam,
Co Galway.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR YEAR 2019

3329

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Sean O'Tuairisg welcomed the attendees to the Statutory Budget Meeting which was adjourned from the 30-11-2018. He then requested Cllr. M. Hoade to address the meeting.

Cllr. M. Hoade referred to the document circulated to the elected members at the meeting entitled "Proposal to address funding issues in Galway County Council and Galway City Council in advance of merger to a unified Local Authority" She advised that this document was received that morning as a result of the ongoing discussions between the Oireachtas members and the Department in regard to the serious underfunding issues concerning the Council. She made a proposal that the Council would respond by sending a letter requesting the Department to address the serious underfunding issues and that the funding of €1.4 million proposed for 2019 should not be tied to the merger of the two Local Authorities.

Cllr. J. McClearn advised that he will second Cllr. Hoade's proposal as it may be helpful and provide an opportunity to the Oireachtas members to amend the legislation currently before the Dáil. He stated that the Council requires substantially more funding and must support and encourage the Oireachtas members in their efforts.

Cllr. T. Welby referred to the fact that the document contained no signature and he was concerned about this. He requested clarification as to who sent it.

Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the document but not its contents and expressed reservations about supporting the Budget. He stated that even €50 million would not address the financial requirements of the Council. He referred to the comments of the Expert Advisory Group as regards recommending that the serious underfunding issue be addressed. He stated that the majority of the City and County Councillors are not in favour of the merger and explained how other local authorities such as Donegal, Tipperary and Mayo are receiving substantially more funding from the Equalisation Fund.

Cllr. M. Kinnane referred to the way the document is laid out and expressed concern that there is no signature. She stated that the Councillors should not be bribed by it as it is intended to advance the merger. She advised that while she is reassured by the wording that more funding is due to the Council -the members need to seek more clarity and reassurance about the issue and should not give away a bargaining chip. She recommended that the Council seek an amendment to the wording and the €1.4 m would be welcome if there are no strings attached.

Cllr. D. Connolly advised that the Council should send a clear message to the Government

concerning the lack of funding and he enquired about the timescale to adopt the Budget and clarity as regards Christmas parking in Ballinasloe.

Cllr. T. Broderick stated that the Council was initially offered €500,000 and now it is €1.4m which is not sufficient. He enquired if there is a vote on the merger tomorrow night in the Dáil and whether the Councillors are voting to take the €1.4 m and if it is included in the Draft Budget today. He stated that as no one has signed the document and by voting for it they were acknowledging the merger.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the €1.4 m is not included in the draft Budget and explained that the document was attached to an e-mail sent by Mr Paul Lemass, Assistant Secretary in the Department that morning.

The Cathaoirleach decided that he would deal with the Motion and put it to the floor to see if there was agreement. He then ruled that the Motion proceed to a vote and the sign in process for it was commenced. He read out the Motion which was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Hoade and **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. McClearn as follows: "That we ask the Department to address the serious underfunding issue of Galway County Council and that the funding of €1.4 million be not tied into a merger of a unified Local Authority."

The result of the vote for Motion A was as follows:

FOR: (Vote 26)

Cllr. Aidan Donohue	Cllr. Billy Connelly	Cllr. Des Joyce	Cllr. Donagh Killilea
Cllr. Donal Burke	Cllr. Eileen Mannion	Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	Cllr. Ivan Canning
Cllr. James Charity	Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Cllr. Joe Byrne	Cllr. Malachy Noone
Cllr. Martina Kinane	Cllr. Mary Hoade	Cllr. Michael Connolly	Cllr. Michael Finnerty
Cllr. Michael Maher	Cllr. Niamh Byrne	Cllr. Pat Hynes	Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Cllr. Peter Roche	Cllr. Seamus Walsh	Cllr. Shane Donnellan
Cllr. Tom McHugh	Comh. S. O'Tuairisg		

AGAINST: (Vote 1)

Comh S. O'Cualáin

ABSTAIN: (Vote 5)

Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Cllr. Karey McHugh	Cllr. Noel Thomas	Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. Tom Healy			

No-Voting: (Vote 1)

Cllr. Jim Cuddy

The Cathaoirleach deemed the Motion carried.

He then requested the Chief Executive to address the meeting.

Mr. Kelly advised that over the last 4 years there have been severe constraints on the adoption of Budgets and delivery of services due to the reduction in Financial and Staff resources. He explained that the Revenue Budget adopted for 2015 amounted to €105m which was €17m less than the one adopted for the previous year. He stated that the position has been made worse by rising costs and static funding which has impacted on services. He explained that the funding of €121 m for the 2019 Budget is close to that of 2014- but the increase of €9m over the 2018 Budget is largely due to an increase in road grants which is a contra item. He advised that despite the constraints -the Council has achieved positive outcomes during the past few years and he will request Alan Farrell A/Director of Services to conduct a review of projects undertaken and to prepare a report on same early in the new year. He acknowledged the work done by the Finance Committee and the CPG as regards the Council finances. He explained that some of the changes contained in the Budget are set out in page 4 of his report. The increased costs refer to the National Pay Agreements (€838,000), increased cost of homeless service (€50,000) and Pensions & Gratuities (€400,000). He explained that the increase in income due to increased rateable valuations is largely due to windfarms and that the increase in insurance costs is partially offset by the distribution of IPB retained funds. As previously outlined, he referred to the additional funding of €600,000 listed on page 5 of his report - which includes €660,000 for Roads, €400,000 for Housing Maintenance, €100,000 for a Tourism Officer & Initiatives, €100,000 for Review and Management of the Council Fleet, €140,000 for Speed Limits & Traffic Management, €60,000 for the Climate Change Strategy, €30,000 for Public Lighting, €150,000 for additional staffing, €30,000 for Data Protection, €75,000 for Health & Safety, €25,000 for e-Planning, €50,000 for Music Generation and €20,000 for the Milwaukee Event. He stated that his comments on page 5 in regard to the ongoing discussions with the Department concerning additional funding for the Council seems now to have been overtaken by events. He advised that overall discretionary expenditure has reduced. He stated that the financial position is not sustainable and the Council is losing ground and there is a need to create forward momentum. He referred to an outline of positive actions on page 7 such as the development of Agri-Food Tourism Initiatives, the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, the Clár Programme, Community Support Schemes and the LIS. He advised that in order to generate forward momentum in 2019 the Council has to get the balance right and raise funds for the delivery of services and the only practical adjustment is to increase the commercial rate. He stated that commercial rates had not increased over the past 10 years and referred to page 3 and the fact that County Galway's rate was below that of neighbouring counties and would remain so even with a rates increase. He thanked the Cathaoirleach and the elected members for their co-operation and support during the year and acknowledged the work of Ger Mullarkey, Head of Finance and his staff on the draft Budget. He then recommended the draft Budget for adoption by the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach then invited comments from the elected members on the draft Budget and advised of the proposal to increase commercial rates by 6% for 2019.

Cllr. D. Killilea advised that he is against increasing the rate by 6% as businesses cannot afford it and the threat of Brexit remains. He stated that most businesses are in arrears as regards paying rates and a rebate system would therefore be unfair and not equitable if they are not in a position to avail of it. He reminded the Councillors of the public reaction when they increased the LPT. He proposed that the 6% increase be removed from the Budget and to

substitute the €1.4 m funding from the Department instead.

Cllr. P. Hynes thanked the officials for compiling the Budget and noted several positive issues including additional funding for roads and the LIS. He advised of the need to press for more funding in 2019. He referred to the fact that some Council houses remain unoccupied for 4-5 months and hoped that the funds for Housing maintenance can be used to refurbish them so that they can be used to reduce the waiting list. He requested that the cap of €3,000 in regard to the NOM for Public Lighting be reviewed and he agreed with Cllr. Killilea that an increase in rates will affect businesses.

Cllr. J. McClearn welcomed the €9 m increase in the Budget over 2018 but advised that while he understood from the statement of the Chief Executive that there has been no increase in rates for 10 years they all agree that there is no appetite to increase them as small businesses are struggling and the Fine Gael Group will not support it. He proposed that the Budget be amended by removing the rate increase for the County and increase the Ballinasloe rate from €61 to €64. This will result in an estimated income shortfall of €1,075,000. He proposed that the €1.4m funding be used with the amount of €1.075m used to balance the Budget and the remainder of €325,000 be posted to H1101. This can be used to fund projects for the Municipal Districts.

Cllr. T. McHugh advised that he will second Cllr. McClearn's proposal and that it is not prudent to increase rates today as it would be very problematic with shops and pubs closing. He stated that the Council has come some distance since 2014 when the Budget was €112 m to today's amount of €123m. He acknowledged the work of Minister Seán Kyne TD and Cllr. P. Feeney in regard to the liaison with the Oireachtas members and Minister John Paul Phelan.

Cllr. Kinnane welcomed the proposed recruitment of a Tourism Officer and that she had worked with groups in the tourism sector. She spoke of the benefit of small groups developing projects as regards an economic driver in the local economy. She stated that the proposed increase in rates is a no go and queried whether the acceptance of the €1.4 m is a tie in to the amalgamation. She advised that clarity should be sought in regard to this. She proposed that the €325,000 left over after the deficit has been dealt with would be used to fund playgrounds and sports facilities.

Cllr. D. Joyce advised that he will not support the 6% increase in rates as the small businesses in the rural towns and villages are on their knees and he agreed that the €1.4 m should be used to bridge the gap in the Budget.

Cllr. T. Broderick enquired if the €1.4 m is available to the Council for allocation to the Budget. He expressed his opinion that having read the document it appears that it is intended as a tie in to the merger. He sought clarification from the Chief Executive as to whether the Council has the ability to include it in the Budget for 2019.

Cllr. S. Cunniffe advised that clarification should be sought as regards the use of the €1.4 m as the document did not indicate general spending. He stated that the Government should address the fact that the Council is underfunded and referred to the fact that money was provided to bail out the banks. He opposed the increase of the commercial rates and advised that businesses were not getting the services they need. He stated that the Council is faced with a pivotal decision and is requesting the Chief Executive to state if the €1.4 is for general

spending.

Cllr. G. Finnerty stated that the Council is seriously underfunded with bad roads and a declining housing stock. He referred to the fact that on page 5 the Council is providing €60,000 in regard to climate change and yet the Government did not do so in its own budget. He enquired about the proposed works to the Cloon Weir, Gort on page 121 and the South Galway Flood Relief on page 155.

Cllr. B. Connelly advised that he is opposed to the increase in the rate and agrees with Cllr. McClearn's proposal to use the €1.4 m. He referred to the poor state of the roads and the fact that the Council has to absorb the costs for the N17 after it being downgraded to a Regional Road. He stated that while he acknowledged the work of the Oireachtas members including Sean Canney T.D he felt that the offer received is only a pittance.

Cllr. T. Welby stated that the letter was not signed by Paul Lemass. He advised that the Fianna Fáil delegation have failed to prevent the merger from happening and stated that in his opinion by accepting the €1.4 m the Council is notifying its acceptance of the terms of the merger. He referred to the fact that the Council needs extra staff especially in Planning and Roads and enquired how many extra staff and repairs to roads and potholes would the €1.4 m fund. He referred to the funding deficits of the past 4 Budgets and advised that he will make a proposal that the Finance Committee should be abolished as the work done during the past 3 years has been a waste of time.

Cllr. T. Healy advised that he has attended meetings of the Finance Committee and it always worked with the best of intentions. He stated that the proposal to increase the rates came before it but he feels that the Councillors have to look after the business owners who are struggling. He explained that the Expert Group held consultations on the merger with the elected members who are not convinced of its merits. He stated that the motion to use the €1.4 m in the Budget is pointless and wrong. He referred to the 2018 Local Government Bill and the fact that it does not provide open competition for the post of Chief Executive. He questioned what may happen the funding if the Bill is shot down in the Dáil.

Cllr. S. O'Cualáin stated that coastal erosion should come under the remit of a Minister of State as it is becoming a major problem for coastal regions like Conamara due to the adverse effects of climate change. He advised that while there is some funding for piers which is not enough there is a need to provide for coastal erosion works. He also referred to the need to provide more funding for roads and graveyards which are in bad shape. He referred to the proposed merger and the fact that the document did not contain a signature.

Cllr. J. Byrne referred to the positive initiatives listed in the Chief Executive's report such as the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Clár and the increased funding provided for the 2019 Budget for items such as Road Maintenance. He welcomed the fact that the Council will be constructing over 200 houses under the Rebuilding Ireland Program. He advised that he supported the adoption of the budget in accordance with the proposal made by Cllr. McClearn.

Cllr. N. Thomas advised that it is the same story as previous years trying to adopt a budget with limited financial resources. He referred to the meetings between the Oireachtas members and the Department and advised that they have not been listened to as all the Council is receiving is a meagre amount. He referred to the problems the members had with SICAP, LEADER and the Barna Plan. He stated that even though the Council is severely underfunded the members will still pass a

Budget which will result in no extra potholes being filled and barely any extra staff. He confirmed that he is not in favour of increasing the rate.

Cllr. E. Mannion referred to several positive features in the Budget concerning Conamara including the recruitment of a Tourism Officer, the Gastronomy showcase, the provision of 85 houses in Conamara and the plans to progress the Greenway. She advised that the change in the VAT rate back to its previous level will be detrimental to tourism. She agreed with the Chief Executive that it would be a good idea to document all the positive work undertaken by the Council. She stated that she is not in favour of increasing the rate.

Cllr. J. Charity advised that certainty and ambiguity are factors in his line of work and the proposal in the document is not an offer if it is not signed and therefore not worth the paper it is written on. He stated that this relates to the merger and the document indicates that the propose re-distribution of funding on the basis of additional LPT buoyancy of €10m will mean increases in the LPT rates. He stated that while he supports the merger more interaction is still required between the parties. He cited statistics concerning the average spend on tourism per head which is €95.34 in Mayo compared to €47.81 in Galway and in regard to housing which is €638 in Dublin compared to €75.48 in Galway. He sought clarity in regard to H1101 Agency and Recoupable Services. He referred to the vote in the Dáil on the Bill containing the provisions for the merger and enquired if the €1.4 million is secure or contingent on this.

Cllr. P. Roche advised that the elected members have no control over the amalgamation as the Oireachtas members support it. He stated that the amalgamation will mean a 57- member Council where communities located in the periphery of the county will suffer from lack of investment. He referred to the fact that the Oireachtas have failed to represent the views of the elected members and cited a meeting called in 2016 to discuss the underfunding issue where less than 50% of them showed up and resulted in an opportunity being lost to address the issue. He advised that he supports the motion proposed by Cllr. McClearn and Cllr. McHugh to adopt the Budget.

Cllr. M. Hoade stated that it is difficult to address the Budget when the Council is receiving less funding compared to other counties and the funding issue needs to be addressed. She advised that it is difficult to increase the rates when businesses in the rural towns and villages are not able to carry the 6% increase. She stated that it is the duty of the members to address the budget issues and Roads and Housing are two main areas which can be examined as regards what levels of service can be provided.

Cllr. N. Byrne stated that they should be positive as it is the largest Budget for some time and the €1.4m extra funding provided by Minister John Paul Phelan T.D is welcome. She expressed gratitude to the Finance Committee for their work and advised that members are naïve if they think the funding is not associated with the merger. She advised that the merger is inevitable and the way forward as the Council is not in a viable position when it cannot provide basic services. She referred to the €250,000 ring-fenced in regard to the Bridge at Oughterard and the lack of hope in progressing it due to staff shortages. She confirmed that she will support the proposal made by Cllr. McClearn.

Cllr. Finnerty stated that clarity is required in regard to the details on rates listed on page 4 of the report. He expressed his concern about the merger and the implications of taking the €1.4 m and the difficulty that Councillors will have expressing their opinions in an enlarged chamber.

Cllr. J. Cuddy advised that the Councillors need to realise that the document which was not signed clearly relates to the merger and not the Budget. He stated the Councillors have been treated with contempt after putting their case to the review body as only a maximum of 3 expressed support for the merger. He questioned as to whose views the review body are representing. He stated that in his opinion it is a Houdini Budget with no improvement in services or savings made. He explained that the Athenry-Oranmore Municipal District rejected their Budget. He referred to the fact that the Budget in 2008 was €160m compared to the 2019 Budget of €121m which is a considerable reduction. He advised that small businesses are struggling and cannot afford the increase in rates and that the Council should deal with the owners of vacant commercial properties.

Cllr. I. Canning advised that if the Councillors agree to take the €1.4 m then they are conceding the amalgamation. He stated that the fund is clearly set aside for the amalgamation. He said that it is time to make a stand and send a message to Dublin as regards more funding. He stated that he is not happy about the amalgamation which is being advanced by Fine Gael propped up by Fianna Fail and will not agree to the increase in rates.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the Fine Gael - Fianna Fáil alliance which have passed underfunded budgets during the past 5 years when Clare and Mayo have more in their Budgets. He highlighted the lack of staff resources and advised them to blame their Oireachtas members for the funding situation. He sought clarification in regard to the timelines for the Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road, funding for the Aughrim Interpretative Centre, Ahascragh Village renewal and whether applications can be made for the Rural Regeneration Fund.

Cllr. D. Burke referred to the €1.4 million as amounting to a pittance and stated that the Council is faced with increasing both the County Rate and the Ballinasloe Rate up to the County level. He did not consider Cllr. McClearn's motion as positive and advised that the Council is faced with drastic cuts in services.

Cllr. M. Noone requested the Chief Executive to confirm that the e-mail which contained the attachment came from Paul Lemass in the Department. He stated that the model for the LPT was decided a few years ago and that a revaluation is proposed for 2019.

Cllr. K. McHugh advised that Government revenue had increased by 14% from 2015 but the Council's funding has not increased by the same extent. She stated that there should be no increase in the LPT as people cannot get mortgages or afford to buy houses. She said that the concerns voiced by the Council over the lack of funding have fallen on deaf ears during the past 5 years. She stated that the letter advising of the €1.4 million refers to the merger.

The Cathaoirleach requested the Chief Executive to respond.

Mr. Kelly advised that the document was attached to an e-mail sent by Paul Lemass and he had spoken to him the previous night. He stated that he has no legal advice in regard to the €1.4 m and had provided all of the information that he had to the Members. He explained that he was not party to the discussions between the Oireachtas members and the Department and therefore it is for the elected members to consider the motion before them. He referred to the proposed increase in the County rate and Ballinasloe Rates to €70.56 and the incentives outlined to limit the impact. This should result in 88% of businesses getting a reduction 12 % getting an increase. He advised that small businesses in the rural towns would not receive a rate increase in accordance with the proposal. He

referred to his intention to employ 3-4 additional staff in 2019 and explained that the buoyancy expected from the LPT from 2019 onwards refers to additional properties becoming subject to LPT. He stated that the balance of €325,000 would be placed in the holding code H1101 pending discussions with the CPG. He advised that part of the Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road can be progressed and funded from Capital.

J. Cullen advised that he will check the position in regard to the Renewal Scheme for Ahascragh which will be done under the Council's 5 Year Town & Village Renewal Program.

Cllr. A. Donohue advised that the rates incentive program is disingenuous as 70% of businesses with a rate demand of €10,000 and less are in arrears and cannot avail of the discount.

Cllr. J. McClearn referred to the discussions between the Oireachtas members and the Minister and his officials and advised that he is satisfied that his proposal is in order and in compliance with the understanding they have. He advised that the €325,000 should be spent by the Municipal Districts and is an issue for the CPG.

Cllr. P. Feeney advised that the document indicates that the serious underfunding issue is recognised by the Department and the suggestion that the Council cannot use the €1.4 m funding for the Budget is not correct.

The Cathaoirleach stated that everyone had an opportunity to speak and he now wanted to put the motions received to a vote. He requested that Motion B proceed to a vote and the sign in process for it was commenced. The Motion which was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. J. McClearn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. T. McHugh was "I propose that the Budget be amended as follows: Remove the rate increase of 6% included in the draft Budget which has an ARV of 70.59 by reducing the ARV to 66.59 and to an ARV of 64.00 in the former Ballinasloe Town Council. This will reduce rates income by €1.784 million and leave a base year adjustment in Ballinasloe of €82,913. It is proposed to reduce expenditure/increase income in the following headings.

H0301 Reduction in expenditure of €475,000.
H0303 Reduction in expenditure of €234,000.
H1101 Reduction in expenditure of €175,000.
H1101 Increase in income of €900,000

Mr Mullarkey explained that the €1.784m reduction in income arises from the decrease in the ARV from €70.59 to the existing €66.59 for the County and the increase in the ARV from €61 to €64 for Ballinasloe. As a consequence, the vacancy provision has been reduced by €234,000 (H0303) and the incentive scheme has been removed €475,000 (H03010) leaving the net reduction in rates income at €1.075M. The budget had allowed for additional income of €500,000 towards municipal district funding this has now been increased by €900,000 to €1.4M. The budget had also allowed for €500,000 as an expenditure heading for the municipal districts this has now been reduced to €325,000 a reduction of €175,000.

The result of the vote was as follows:

FOR: (Vote 33)

Cllr. Aidan Donohue	Cllr. Billy Connelly	Cllr. Des Joyce	Cllr. Donagh Killilea
Cllr. Donal Burke	Cllr. Eileen Mannion	Cllr. Frank Kearney	Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly
Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	Cllr. Ivan Canning	Cllr. James Charity	Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Cllr. Joe Byrne	Cllr. Karey McHugh	Cllr. Malachy Noone
Cllr. Martina Kinane	Cllr. Mary Hoade	Cllr. Michael Connolly	Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Michael Finnerty	Cllr. Michael Maher	Cllr. Niamh Byrne	Cllr. Pat Hynes
Cllr. Peter Feeney	Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Cllr. Peter Roche	Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Shane Donnellan	Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Cllr. Tom McHugh	Comh. S. O’Cualáin

AGAINST: (Vote 2)

Cllr. Dermot Connolly Cllr. Tom Healy

ABSTAIN: (Vote 3)

Cllr. Noel Thomas Cllr. Thomas Welby Cllr. Tim Broderick

No-Voting: (Vote 0)

C. Delaney declared the motion was carried.

The Cathaoirleach requested that the Motion C proceed to a vote and the sign in process for it was commenced. The Motion which was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. T. Welby, **SECONDED** by Cllr. T. Broderick was “That the Finance Committee that has sat in this Council would now be disbanded.”

The result of the vote was as follows:

FOR: (Vote 9)

Cllr. Billy Connelly	Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Cllr. Des Joyce	Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Cllr. Thomas Welby	Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. S. O’Cualáin			

AGAINST: (Vote 26)

Cllr. Aidan Donohue	Cllr. Donagh Killilea	Cllr. Donal Burke	Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Frank Kearney	Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly	Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	Cllr. Ivan Canning
Cllr. James Charity	Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Cllr. Joe Byrne	Cllr. Malachy Noone
Cllr. Martina Kinane	Cllr. Mary Hoade	Cllr. Michael Connolly	Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Michael Finnerty	Cllr. Niamh Byrne	Cllr. Noel Thomas	Cllr. Pat Hynes
Cllr. Peter Feeney	Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Cllr. Seamus Walsh	Cllr. Tom Healy
Cllr. Tom McHugh	Comh. S. O’Tuairisg		

ABSTAIN: (Vote 0)

No-Voting: (Vote 0)

C. Delaney declared that the motion was not carried.

The Cathaoirleach requested that the Motion D proceed to a vote and the sign in process for it was commenced. The Motion which was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. S. Cunniffe, **SECONDED** by Cllr. K. McHugh was "I propose that we receive a written confirmation from Minister John Paul Phelan that the €1.4 m detailed in the unsigned memo can be re-assigned to General Budgetary Spend 2019, letter to be an Agenda item on next week's meeting."

The result of the vote was as follows:

FOR: (Vote 10)

Cllr. Billy Connelly	Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Cllr. James Charity	Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Karey McHugh	Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe	Cllr. Thomas Welby	Cllr. Tim Broderick
Cllr. Tom Healy	Comh S. O'Cualáin		

AGAINST: (Vote 20)

Cllr. Aidan Donohue	Cllr. Donagh Killilea	Cllr. Donal Burke	Cllr. Eileen Mannion
Cllr. Frank Kearney	Cllr. Gerry Finnerty	Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Cllr. Joe Byrne
Cllr. Malachy Noone	Cllr. Mary Hoade	Cllr. Michael Connolly	Cllr. Michael Fahy
Cllr. Michael Finnerty	Cllr. Niamh Byrne	Cllr. Pat Hynes	Cllr. Peter Feeney
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Cllr. Seamus Walsh	Cllr. Tom McHugh	Cllr. S. O'Tuairisg

ABSTAIN: (Vote 2)

Cllr. Ivan Canning	Cllr. Noel Thomas
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No-Voting: (Vote 0)

C. Delaney declared that the motion was not carried.

The Cathaoirleach requested a vote on the remaining Agenda items to complete the process of the adoption of the 2019 Budget, as amended.

DETERMINATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET AS AMENDED, OF THE RATE ON VALUATION TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2019

3330

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. J. McClearn, **SECONDED** by Cllr. S. Walsh and **AGREED** to determine, in accordance with the Budget adopted, the rate of valuation to be levied for the Financial Year ending 31-12-2019.

DETERMINATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BUDGET AS AMENDED, THE BASE YEAR ADJUSTMENT TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2019

3331

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. M. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. T. McHugh and **AGREED** to determine, in accordance with the Budget adopted, the base year adjustment to be levied for the Financial Year ending 31-12-2019.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATED OUTTURNS 2018

3332

It was **Proposed** by Cllr. M. Maher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. S. Donnellan and **AGREED** to adopt the estimated outturns for 2018.

TO NOTE THE REPORT ON THE THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019-2021

3333

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. T. McHugh, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Hoade and **AGREED** that the Report on the Three- year Capital Programme 2019-2021 be noted.

TO NOTE THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2015 -2019 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 134 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED)

3334

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. G. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. F. Kearney and **AGREED** that the Annual Progress Report on the Corporate Plan 2015-2019 be noted.

CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

3335

The Cathaoirleach then read the other proposals received as follows.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kearney the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. Donohue's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Ahascragh/Fohenagh GAA Club in the sum of €540.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Donohue, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kearney the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. Donohue's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Fohenagh Community Council in the sum of €540.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. N. Byrne the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. M. Finnerty's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Ballinasloe Town Twinning in the sum of €1100.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. N. Byrne the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. M. Finnerty's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Committee in the sum of €1600.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. M. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Connolly the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. M. Finnerty's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Ballygar Square Works in the sum of €800.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Noone, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Killilea the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. Noone's 2019 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Claregalway Handball

Club in the sum of €1750.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. G. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. G. Finnerty's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Christmas Street Lighting in Gort in the sum of €1500.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. G. Finnerty, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Kinane the Members **AGREED** to transfer Cllr. G. Finnerty's 2018 unallocated Training and Conference Allocations to Cooley-Collins Trad Fheis in the sum of €500.00.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. D. Connolly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. D. Burke and **AGREED** that in light of the exceptional circumstances experienced by retailers in particular, that Galway County Council permit free Christmas parking in Ballinasloe from the 12-12-2018 until the 31-12-2018.

Cllr. J. McClearn advised that Comh. T. O'Curraoin is in hospital and proposed that the Council express best wishes to him for a speedy recovery. This was seconded by the Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. G. Finnerty as secretary of the Fianna Fáil group advised that Cllr. M. Fahy has re-joined the party. Cllr. Fahy thanked his colleagues and a number of other individuals for their assistance to him.

The Cathaoirleach stated "Go raibh máith agaibh go léir" and declared the meeting closed.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINIÚ ANSIN

Submitted Signed and Approved:

Cathaoirleach:

Seán C. Tuohy

Date:

12/12/2018

