

**Minutes of Proceedings of Statutory Budget Meeting of
Nenagh Town Council held in the Civic Offices, Nenagh
on Thursday, 12th January, 2012**

Councillors Present: Cllr. H. McGrath Cllr. S. Morris
Cllr. V. O'Dowd Cllr. L. McGee
Cllr. J. Moran Cllr. T. Moylan
Cllr. C. Delaney Cllr. T. Mulqueen
Cllr. T. Morgan

Also Present: M. O'Connor, Town Manager
D. Purcell, Town Clerk
S. O'Callaghan

The Mayor, Cllr. V. O'Dowd presided.

The Mayor welcomed all to the Statutory Budget Meeting.

It was noted that a Budget Workshop had been held on 5th January.
The Town Manager presented his Report on the Draft Budget and Sarah O'Callaghan presented the Draft Budget figures on a line by line basis to the Members.

The Members highlighted the following areas: -

- Housing
Cllr. Morris asked if funding had been included for energy upgrades to Council housing stock. Sarah O'Callaghan confirmed that €20,000 had been included in the budget as matching funding for Department grants for these works

- Roads
Cllr. Moylan said that it was hard to judge the position with regard to roads until notification of the Block Road Grant was received from the Department. He complimented the Executive on their proposal to carry out a new Traffic Management Plan. He asked that requests from the Irish Wheelchair Association regarding disabled parking spaces be taken on board in compiling the 2012 Roadworks Programme. He also asked much funding was available from Roads Development Levies and if this source could be used for road improvements instead of the revenue budget. The Town Manager replied that the requests of the Irish Wheelchair Association would be considered. He said that there was not much funding available from Roads Development Levies as the new link road and Ballygraique and Dromin Road improvements had been funded for from these.

Cllr. Moylan felt that provision should be made towards resurfacing the car park at Tyone. Cllrs. McGee and Morris supported this. Cllr. Moran said that this car park was in the ownership of the County Council and therefore their responsibility.

Cllr. Delaney complimented the Executive on the fine works done in the last year and welcomed the proposal regarding the Traffic Management Plan.

- Water Services

Cllr. Moylan asked for a breakdown of the €835,000 County Water Demand stating that it was a huge cost to the Town Council. He felt that the public should be made aware of this cost and encouraged to conserve water. He asked if the works done in the water conservation area had an effect. The Town Manager agreed that it was a big cost but an awful lot of water was used in the town. He said the charge was calculated at €1.20 per m³ for water in and €1.20 per m³ for water out which is one of the cheapest rates in the country and the quality of the water meets all international standards. He said that countywide consumption had decreased from 26,000 m³ to 19,000 m³ per day as a result of water conservation works. He said that water meters would have to be installed on all domestic properties probably in the coming year as part of the metering programme.

- Development Management

Cllr. Morris queried what return the Council was getting from the twinning arrangement with Tonnerre. He said that funding had been committed towards Sports Tourism over the last number of years which had proved quite successful. Cllr. Moylan agreed regarding Sports Tourism but did not with regard to Tonnerre and suggested arranging a meeting with the Tourism Officer and the Tonnerre Twinning Committee. Cllr. Morris agreed with this.

Cllr. Mulqueen asked if funding for Christmas Lighting could be increased to extend the lighting on Sarsfield Street, Silver Street and Summerhill. The Mayor and Cllrs. McGrath and Delaney supported this.

Cllr. Delaney suggested that a Shopfront Rejuvenation Scheme be set up on a pilot basis on one street. The Town Clerk said that there was funding included in the budget for Tidy Towns Improvements and some of this could be used for such a scheme.

- Environment

Cllr. Moylan complimented the Executive on completing the land acquisition for the extension to Lisboney Burial Ground in 2011. He said it had been a huge cost to the Council and asked if the County Council had been approached with regard to making a contribution as the graveyard serves the County Council area as well as that of the town. The Mayor and Cllr. McGrath supported this. The Town Manager replied that this had happened and there was agreement in principle but an amount had not yet been agreed.

- Recreation and Amenity

Cllr. McGee welcomed the provision towards the Leisure Centre and Town Park. Cllr. Morris requested a commitment to ring fence funding for a full All-Weather Pitch in the town. He said this would enhance Sports Tourism projects. The Mayor said that the Town Park must be the priority. She said that the Council would play their part but would not be the driving force for an All-Weather Pitch. Cllr. Morris said it should be left open for groups to approach the Council. Cllr. McGrath

supported Cllr. Morris. The Town Manager said that an All-Weather Pitch would be desirable for the town and the maximum number of groups should become involved. Discussions would have to take place regarding management and funding. He said that a certain amount of Development Levies were available and some could be kept aside for an All-Weather Pitch but the majority would have to go towards the Town Park.

- Miscellaneous Services

Cllr. Delaney said that the figure included for Rate refunds and Irrecoverable Rates was regrettable and he was under no illusion regarding the difficulties traders were experiencing. He felt that a token gesture of 1% decrease in rates would not be effective and would only save the likes of a hairdresser €10 in the year. He said the Council had to come up with incentives to bring people into town. Cllr. Moylan said that the irrecoverable rates represented 16% of the rate base and this brought home the reality that so many premises were vacant in the town. He said that a parking incentive to encourage business in the town would be more desirable than a 1 or 2% decrease in the rates and would send out a positive message from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to allow the Members to have a discussion in committee.

When the meeting reconvened the Members had agreed that free on-street parking should be introduced in the mornings from 8.30 to 10.00. It was estimated that this would reduce parking income by approximately €20,000. It was proposed to introduce this scheme in February on a trial basis to be reviewed after three months, the commencement date to be agreed at the January Monthly Meeting.

It was proposed by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd

and seconded by: Cllr. J. Moran

And RESOLVED – That pursuant to Section 103(7) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Town Manager's Draft Local Authority Budget for the financial year ending 31st December, 2012, be and is hereby amended by increase(decrease) in amounts provided for **expenditure** in the said Budget as follows:

	SUB-SERVICE	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
B0502	Public Lighting Improvements	(€5,000)
D0905	Economic Development & Promotion	€5,000
F0901	Maintenance of Burial Grounds	(€5,000)
F0101	Leisure Facilities Operations	(€10,000)
F0302	Playgrounds	(€5,000)

It was proposed by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd
and seconded by: Cllr. J. Moran

And RESOLVED – That pursuant to Section 103(7) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Town Manager's Draft Local Authority Budget for the financial year ending 31st December, 2012, be and is hereby amended by increase (decrease) in amounts provided for **income** in the said Budget as follows:

	SUB-SERVICE	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)
B0902	Operation of Street Parking	(€20,000)

It was proposed by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd
and seconded by: Cllr. J. Moran

And RESOLVED – that pursuant to the provisions of Section 103(7) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Town Manager's Draft Local Authority Budget for the Financial year ending 31st December, 2012 set forth in Tables A to F of the said Budget be and is hereby adopted as amended.

It was proposed by: Cllr. V. O'Dowd
and seconded by: Cllr. J. Moran

And RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Draft Local Authority Budget adopted for the financial year ending 31st December, 2012, the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the said financial year be and is hereby determined as set out in Table A.

Annual Rate on Valuation 2012 55.68

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Mayor: _____

Town Clerk: _____

Date: _____