

**Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on
Monday 16th January, 2012**

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Cuddihy

Councillors: Cllrs. M.H. Cavanagh, P. Millea, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, J. Coonan, M. Brett, M. Noonan, A. McGuinness, M. Doran, W. Ireland, T. Maher, T. Prendergast, S. Treacy, C. Long, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy, A.M. Irish, E. Aylward, F. Doherty, M. O'Brien, J. Galway, C. Connery, P. Crowley, B. Manning, M. Fitzpatrick

In attendance: J. Crockett, J. McCormack, P. O'Neill, J. Dempsey, J. Mulholland, M. Delahunty, D. Shortall, D. McDonnell and A.M Walsh

Cllr. Paul Cuddihy opened the Statutory Budget Meeting at 3.30pm.

It was proposed by Cllr. M.H Cavanagh, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and agreed that the Statutory Budget Meeting for 2012 be adjourned until 4pm to allow the members to have a discussion in Committee.

The Statutory Budget Meeting resumed at 4pm.

It was proposed by M.H Cavanagh, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher that the Statutory Budget Meeting be further adjourned until 4.25pm.

Statutory Budget Meeting resumed at 4.25pm.

Cllr. P. Dunphy expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the local community to Mr. B. Mernagh, Mr. P.J Phelan and Water Services staff who responded on Christmas Day to a water leak in his area, and asked that this be conveyed to the staff.

Mr. Crockett, County Manager outlined to the members the main factors influencing the 2012 Budget. Total expenditure for 2012 is estimated as €68.8m, a reduction of €1.8m on the 2011 Budget. The local government fund allocation for 2012 will be €15.1m, a reduction of €1.1m on the 2011 allocation. Kilkenny County Council's rate is still the lowest in the Country, and is 21% lower than the national average. He referred the member to page 2 & 3 of his report which highlights the main issues affecting the 2012 Budget. He advised that the Road Works Programme will be presented to the members in Feb/March when the roads grants have been announced.

In relation to economic development, it is hoped that a lot of progress will be made in 2012. Considerable effort is being devoted to the objectives contained in the County's Economic Development Policy and the Invest Kilkenny Campaign.

The closure of Diageo will have a serious effect on Kilkenny. However the links with Suzhou are welcome.

The Council's end of year balance sheet shows a surplus of approx. €7m, which is made up of unspent development charges of €6.5m. These are now factored into the draft 2012 – 2014 Capital Budget. The deficit has been eliminated over the last ten years.

Mr. Crockett outlined to the members that the draft 2012 – 2014 Capital Budget shows a spend of €192m over all the projects. There is a record number of water service projects included in the Draft Capital Budget. All accumulated development charges have been assigned to the various projects. At the end of 2014 there will be no surplus development levies available. Details of the draft Capital Budget has been circulated for members information.

Programme Group A

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group B

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group C

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group D

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group E

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group F

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group G

The programme group was considered and noted.

Programme Group H

The programme group was considered and noted.

Contributions were made by Cllr's M.H Cavanagh, Ml. O'Brien, M. Doran, S. Treacy, P. Millea, A.M Irish. Members thanked the County Manager, Head of Finance and staff for all the work done in producing a balanced budget despite reductions in the Local Government Fund. A number of issues raised required

clarification:-

- Use of funds for RAS in the Capital A/C.
- Cost of surface dressing roads.
- No. of houses in RAS.

Mr. Mulholland and Mr. McCormack replied to the queries raised.

It was proposed by Cllr. M.H Cavanagh, Seconded by Cllr. Ml. O'Brien that the rate proposed of €52.31 be reduced to €52.05 and that expenditure on local roads funding be reduced by €60,300.

Cllr. M. Doran proposed that the credit capital balance on RAS will be used to reduce the rates being levied on the business people. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Millea.

The County Manager advised the meeting that RAS savings accumulated over the last few years in the Capital Account and must be kept for future use on RAS houses. The Council cannot legally use this fund for the Revenue Account. Therefore the amendment proposed by Cllr. M. Doran, Seconded by Cllr. P. Millea is not a valid amendment.

Discussion ensued in relation to the use of RAS funds in the Capital A/C. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Doran, Seconded by Cllr. Ml. O'Brien that Kilkenny County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting approval to use the fund for other purposes other than the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

Cllr. P. Cuddihy advised members that a vote would now be taken on the proposal by Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh which was seconded by Cllr. Ml. O'Brien

“That the following amendments be made to the 2012 Draft Budget.”

Expenditure:

Service Division	Code	Description	Expenditure Budgeted by Manager	Expenditure Adopted by Council	Net Change
B0401	21512006	Local Roads Budgets	3,279,800	3,249,500	30,300
B0406	22518003	Local Roads Budgets Rd Imp	5,160,700	5,130,700	30,000

Receipts

Service Division	Code	Description	Income Budgeted by Manager	Income Adopted by Council	Net Change
Comm. Rates	9102602N	Rates All Collectors	(12,056,600)	(11,996,300)	(60,300)

A vote was taken as follows:

Members voting in favour of the proposal; - 19 Members.

Cllr's M. H Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, M. Fitzpatrick, M. Brett, B. Manning, P. Cuddihy, M. Noonan, W. Ireland, T. Maher, P. Crowley, J. Galway, T. Prendergast, Ml. O'Brien, F. Doherty, A.M Irish, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy.

Members voting against the proposal – 7 Members

Cllr's P. Millea, A. McGuinness, J. Coonan, M. Doran, S. Treacy, E. Aylward, C. Long

It was proposed by Cllr. M. H Cavanagh, Seconded by Cllr. Ml. O'Brien "**That the Budget of Kilkenny County Council for the financial year ending 31/12/2012 as set out in Table B be adopted as amended.**"

Members voting in favour of the proposal – 19 Members

Cllr's M. H Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, M. Fitzpatrick, M. Brett, B. Manning, P. Cuddihy, M. Noonan, W. Ireland, T. Maher, P. Crowley, J. Galway, T. Prendergast, Ml. O'Brien, F. Doherty, A.M Irish, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy.

Members voting against the proposal – 7 Members

Cllr's P. Millea, A. McGuinness, J. Coonan, M. Doran, S. Treacy, E. Aylward, C. Long

It was proposed by Cllr. M. H Cavanagh , Seconded by Cllr. Ml. O'Brien "**That the Rates set out in Table A of the Draft Budget of Kilkenny County Council for the year ending 31/12/2012 be determined in accordance with the said Budget to the Annual Rate of Valuation to be levied for that year for the purposes set out in Table A as amended.**"

Members voting in favour of the proposal – 19 Members

Cllr's M. H Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, M. Fitzpatrick, M. Brett, B. Manning, P. Cuddihy, M. Noonan, W. Ireland, T. Maher, P. Crowley, J. Galway, T. Prendergast, Ml. O'Brien, F. Doherty, A.M Irish, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy.

Members voting against the proposal – 7 Members

Cllr's P. Millea, A. McGuinness, J. Coonan, M. Doran, S. Treacy, E. Aylward, C. Long

It was proposed by Cllr. W. Ireland, Seconded by Cllr M. Shortall and resolved unanimously "**That the Capital Budget of Kilkenny County Council for the years 2012 to 2014 as set out in the schedule attached to the County Manager's Report dated 9th January, 2012 and amended on the 16th January, 2012 in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2011 be adopted.**"

The County Manager thanked the members and staff for the work involved in preparing the Budget for 2012 and their deliberations over the past few meetings.

Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh thanked the Fianna Fail and Labour Party members for their consideration of the Budget and their co-operation in the discussions on the Budgets.

Cllr. P. Cuddihy thanked everyone involved in the Budget process and looked forward to working with the members and management over the coming year.

Meeting concluded at 5.30pm.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting Held: 16th January, 2012

Proposed By: _____

Seconded By: _____ **and resolved**

“That the Capital Budget of Kilkenny County Council for the years 2012 to 2014 as set out in the schedule attached to the County Manager’s Report dated 9th January, 2012 and amended on the 16th January, 2012 in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2011 be adopted.”

Expenditure

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CATHAOIRLEACH: _____

DATE: _____

