

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 3 July 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor M B O'Malley; Councillors B A Tasker (Chair), L J Leadley, N A Brown, I J Burgess, K Holmes, K W P Lowe and P W Reveley.

Also in attendance Councillors R C Beavan, R J Kilworth, J A Kingsbury and J Sparks; Chief Executive, Roading & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager and Committee Secretary.

APOLOGY: Cr J A Everest **Sustained**

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 29 May, 2008, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Holmes **Carried**

Matters Arising

Acton Main Irrigation Project

It was reported that the project team met and a site visit has been made. Once the legal opinion has been confirmed, the project team will investigate the next stage.

Hakatere and Winchmore Supplies

The Water Services Manager advised that the information sought on the Hakatere and Winchmore water supplies is being prepared and will be forwarded to property owners connected to the schemes.

Draft Water Race Management Plan – Adoption by Council

“That Council adopts the Ashburton District Council Draft Water Race Management Plan – March 2008.”

Leadley/Lowe **Carried**

Retention of Emergency Management Officer's Mazda Bounty for Volunteer Rural Fire Force Use

- “1. That Council retains the Emergency Management Officer's (EMO) Mazda Bounty double cab 4x4 utility, registration EAS125 in the rural fire fleet for use by the Ashburton Volunteer Rural Fire Force for fire fighter and equipment transport.
2. That the Mazda Bounty be garaged in the South Street Fire Station and that the existing doorway be widened to accommodate it at an approximate cost of \$1500.”

Brown/Burgess **Carried**

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Holmes/Burgess **Carried**

Financial Reports

• Water supplies

The Water Services Manager explained that the differences shown in the reports for Mayfield and Mt Somers water supply upgrades are a result of incorrect charging in these accounts.

The cost of the Mayfield water supply upgrade has reduced to \$34,913 (includes the cost of installing the generator and replacement water meter). This work was brought forward as part of the investigation process which requires detailed information on water flows. The Mt Somers figure has been increased to \$41,025. Mr Guthrie said that the upgrade costs include professional fees for the CAP applications and the outcome of the applications is to be released by the Ministry of Health later this month.

The cost to repair the water supply equipment at Mt Somers will be met in part by insurance and the possibility of obtaining reparation is being investigated.

- **Roading**

The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported on the cost overrun of \$250,000 in the sealed road surfacing budget which has resulted in part from increased bitumen costs. This is offset by work that is under budget in the unsealed road metalling area. The option of lodging a further claim with LTNZ for the overspend is being considered.

Mr Robertson confirmed that the rate contribution for the Dobson Street sealing will be retained and work will be programmed as a carry-over project.

Road widening of Northpark, Bremners and Works Roads will be carried out as part of the NE Ashburton Business Park development and will qualify for a LTNZ subsidy of 57% as category one projects. The local share of the costs will be met from the NE Business Park loan.

Development in Ashburton District

- **Art Gallery / Museum**

The Committee agreed that the design and costings for the gallery / museum complex should be peer reviewed before the project moves forward and requested that this matter be reported back to Council.

- **NE Ashburton Business Park**

The Chief Executive confirmed that the summary of work reported to the Committee has been provided to the Project Team. A workshop for the Project Team will be scheduled within the next fortnight to discuss timeframes, costings, valuations and sales / marketing. A report will be provided to Council after this workshop.

SH1 Work

The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported that new road marking through Tinwald is almost complete and will be followed up by Transit with advertising and information to residents in the area on the purpose of flush medians.

It was noted that there are sections of the road seal on Archibald Street in need of repair and this will be followed up with Transit.

The Mayor referred to the recently approved Land Transport programme and asked what priority is being given to the projects identified. The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported that a meeting will be held later this month with the various parties involved in the TRIP programme where it is intended to finalise projects and link them to a timeframe. A report will be prepared for Council to sign off on the priorities identified for this district. This information will be used to lobby LTNZ.

General Maintenance

The Roothing and Street Services Manager was advised of problems associated with gritting on the Ashburton Staveley Road which has become dangerous in freezing conditions following the recent snowfall. Work to overlay this road will be carried out.

It was also reported that the overlay on Ashburton Westerfield Tinwald Road is beginning to break up. Because of excessive heavy traffic usage on the Ashburton Staveley Road it was suggested that trucks carting shingle should be re-routed to SH77.

Clarification was sought on the policy that is in place for properties where trees shading roads prevent the thaw of ice and create a road safety hazard. The Roothing and Street Services Manager advised that a schedule of roads is used for the placement of signs during the winter and other roads can be included where problems with ice are identified. The Committee also asked that property owners be reminded of their obligation to keep shelter trees trimmed to a height that allows better thawing of the road. These matters will be followed up by Mr Robertson.

Bridges

It was reported that the replacement of Rawles Crossing bridge is complete. Work is also programmed to widen the Ashburton Gorge bridge, near the Maori lakes, in this financial year.

Street Cleaning

Reports of dissatisfaction with street cleaning in the CBD will be followed up with the contractor and the Roothing and Street Services Manager was asked to report back on the frequency of cleaning that is provided for in the contract.

Minor Improvements

Contract C531, being the Stranges / Grahams Road upgrade is in its final stage after being delayed for over 12 months. The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported that the subdivision plan was received on 2 July and is being reviewed by the Planning department after which time the transfer agreement will be signed. The contract for the work has been let and work is expected to commence this month.

Kerb & Channel and Footpaths

It was noted that C543, new and replacement kerb and channel for 2007/08 is almost complete. The Committee requested that the River Terrace footpath be included on the sealing programme because of its urgent need of upgrade.

Heavy Traffic on Roads

The Committee was reminded that the new Bylaws will become effective on 1 July. The Roothing and Street Services Manager confirmed that appropriate signs, including those prohibiting heavy vehicles on Michael Street between Bridge Street and Acton Road, will be put in place.

Allenton Booster Pump Station

It was reported that technical problems arose when the commissioning of the pump station was undertaken on 27 June and work has been delayed.

Mt Somers Reservoir Installation

The Water Services Manager reported that the legal opinion supported the project but recommended that further negotiations be undertaken with the land owner to confirm access and pre-existing elements of the facility. Contact will be made within the next two weeks.

Water Take Consent

A meeting was held with ECan personnel on 25 June and the Water Services Manager reported that key issues have been identified and, once addressed, it is likely that the consent will be granted without the need for a hearing, although this will delay the process for a further one or two months. Efficiency of use and cumulative effect on other ground water users were reasons for concern.

Mr Guthrie explained that the current consented rate is 40 litres / second from the existing shallow groundwater source, hydraulically linked to the Rakaia River. The new consent is for a lesser amount (30 litres / second) however, because it is from a deep water source and the zone is fully allocated, the application is being considered as a new take and no consideration is being given to existing use. It was noted that resource consent costs are not covered by CAP application funding and the costs will be met from the Rakaia water supply upgrade budget.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the Committee's concern that the process is being delayed and said that when ECan adopted 'red zones' direction was given to look at the effect on stockwater and community water supplies, however ECan's rules haven't been modified to reflect this.

The Committee disagreed with ECan's methodology, which is imposing unnecessary cost on community water schemes, and supported that the issue be addressed through the Mayoral Forum.

Tuarangi Rd GPT

The Water Services Manager acknowledged that problems had occurred following recent heavy rain. He explained that the interceptors only work up to capacity and storms in excess of that will allow material to pass through. Mr Guthrie said that the option to put a collection sock on the downstream culvert headwall, to provide 100% capture of litter, is being investigated. This will incur additional cost.

Installation of Remote Monitoring

The Water Services Manager reported that the budget originally developed for telemetry equipment on the retention pond (\$9,000) was insufficient to meet requirements. A revised proposal will be reported back to Council with a likely request for carry-over funding.

Road Safety Issues

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that information recorded over the 2003-2007 period indicates that the major road safety issues for this district were intersection crashes and loss of control on straight roads. Mr Robertson said that the cost to the community is high and a focus of road safety will be to reverse this trend.

Cr Tasker confirmed that Police are funded by the Transport Authority to carry out enforcement and, in negotiation with the community, set the enforcement priorities. At the last review, emphasis was put on intersections.

The Mayor said that there needs to be behavioural changes. He requested that the Police be asked to report back to the Road Safety Coordinating Committee on the level of enforcement, ie number of infringements issued for intersection offences at intersections, including the number of 'near misses'.

The meeting concluded at 2.52 pm.