

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

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**REPORT** and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 12 March 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors B A Tasker (Chair), L J Leadley, I J Burgess, J A Everest, K L Holmes, K W P Lowe and P W Reveley.

Also in attendance Councillors J A Kingsbury and J A Sparks; Roading & Street Services Manager, Water Services Manager and Committee Secretary.

One member of the public attended.

**APOLOGY** His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley (lateness)  
Crs N A Brown, R C Beavan

**Sustained**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes were amended to include Cr Holmes as present.

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 29 January, 2009, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/Holmes

**Carried**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Trees shading roads**

The Mayor attended the meeting at 1.33 pm.

The Roading & Street Service Manager reported that a large number of responses have been received from the 270 properties contacted. Staff will follow up to ensure the necessary work is undertaken.

#### **Public toilets**

Notices of tender for all four sites have been advertised this week.

### **Activity Reports**

“That the reports be received.”

Burgess/Lowe

**Carried**

#### **Financials**

Reports for the period 1 July to 31 December 2008 were received.

- Only small sections of Northpark and Works Roads will receive subsidy. Subsidies cannot be applied to the state highway corridor and the anticipated \$220,000 has reduced to \$115,000. The balance of the cost of this work will be funded from the Business Park loan.
- The road sealing contract was awarded for \$420,000, however significant savings will be achieved as the forecasted budget is now around \$120,000.
- Solid waste activity totals appear to be incorrectly reported in the budget variance and this will be followed up.
- The cost of fire suppression at the Ashburton RRP was included. It was noted that Council will receive the full payment, excluding insurance excess.
- Council's offer to purchase the baler and transfer containers has been accepted and will become available this financial year.
- Some over-expenditures are projected, however these will level out towards the end of the financial year.

- Mt Somers variance of \$3,389 includes the \$1,800 cost of repairing vandalism. It was noted that with an excess of \$2,500 there won't be an insurance claim made. The cost will be met by scheme users.

### **Vandalism**

The Committee heard that a section of the Domain brick wall along West Street has again been vandalised. Council is offering a \$500 reward offered to persons providing information which leads to the identity and conviction of any person responsible. The Mayor reported that he has today been advised that a member of the community, who wishes to remain anonymous, has offered to contribute a further \$500.

The Roading and Street Services Manager advised that vandalism cost Council \$128,000 in the last financial year and that vandalism throughout the district is increasing.

### **Road closures – standard operating procedures**

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that the highway authority has been advised of Council's proposal to develop operating procedures to manage road closures during flood events. Mr Robertson said that NZTA is in agreement and the process is now being finalised which will see a management plan included in contracts.

Options to address the sump problem at the corner of Queens Drive and Pages Road are being developed.

### **Trade Waste Bylaw**

Cr Leadley expressed disappointment that inclusion of community members who were previously appointed to an advisory group had been overlooked throughout the consultation process. He noted that the Trade Waste Community Advisory Group had been set up with the intention of using community expertise in the development of the bylaw and asked that a letter of explanation be sent out.

### **General Maintenance**

The Roading and Street Services Manager provided a list of roads that will have maintenance metalling work carried out on those sections requiring it. Work will be undertaken in June / July.

### **Reseals**

The bitumen supply was delayed a month and limited sealing was carried out in February. It was reported that work is now underway and the contract should be completed by the end of March, 10 days over the contract time.

### **Street Cleaning**

The Roading and Street Services Manager reported that routine cleaning of streets, channels and siphons continues and Council's contractor has been asked to provide weekly reports on this work. Mr Robertson said that all stormwater sumps are cleaned twice a year with the second round due to start in two-three months. He explained that sumps, if not fully cleaned, don't restrict flow, however the contract will clear any build-up of debris as this arises.

### **Carriageway Lighting**

The Roading & Street Services Manager reported that Electricity Ashburton is proposing to carry out undergrounding work at Hinds and Mt Somers, to be undertaken in conjunction with Council work in those areas. Budget provision will be made in the minor safety works and street lighting renewal account areas. It was noted that fibre optic cabling work, currently being undertaken throughout the district, is laid closer to the surface and cannot be done in conjunction with electrical cabling.

### **Skatepark**

A meeting has been held between Council staff, Youth Council and skatepark user representatives in response to a request from skatepark users who want to see the area tidied up. The meeting agreed that skatepark users would need to set up a group to develop their ideas and then come back to Council with a proposal.

### **New kerb & channel and footpaths**

The Committee discussed the need for coordination between utility providers to avoid roadsides being re-dug after sealing has been completed.

The Roading & Street Services Manager reported that a national regulation is being set up which will ensure that all utility works have to be approved by councils. He explained that electricity, gas and communication utilities have legal access, however it will be the relevant council's responsibility to monitor these activities. Further information on the 'National Code of Practice for utilities' access to transport corridors' will be reported to the Committee when it becomes available.

### **Ashburton water supply**

At a meeting of the Water Services Subcommittee on 12 March, it was reported that there has been a delay in commissioning a successful bore in Tinwald, and a recommendation was made to bring forward programmed work to drill a new deep bore in the Ashburton Domain. While work will be programmed for May, it is likely that costs will be incurred in the new financial year.

"That the drilling of a new deep bore in the Ashburton Domain (Bore No 6), programmed for 2009/ 2010, be brought forward with a programmed commencement date of May 2009."

Reveley/Leadley

**Carried**

### **Contractor bulk filling points**

The Water Services Manager reported that four filling points are to be installed in Ashburton (2), Methven and Rakaia. The purpose is to allow contractors and water carriers to access water from the public supplies without compromising the safety of the supply. A policy is being developed and the LTCCP will show a new water charge. Mr Guthrie said that the costs of operation and maintenance will be met by each of the schemes and any income derived will go back to those schemes. Cr Holmes questioned whether the group funding of water supplies will influence that approach. The Water Services Manager agreed that it may require special consideration would follow the matter up with the Finance Manager.

### **Mt Somers water supply**

The Water Services Manager reported that water quantity testing has been unfavourable with only around 1.0 litres / second achieved. He said that the yield would need to be at least 3 - 4 litres/ second to be a viable alternative to the present infiltration gallery. Water quality testing has also produced unsatisfactory results, however further testing will be carried out with the results to be reported back to the Committee.

### **Ocean Farm Open Day**

A public open day at Ocean Farm is proposed on Saturday 4 April, from 10 am – 2 pm. Static displays will be used at the farm site to demonstrate the Wilkins Road operation.

At a meeting of the Farm Management Subcommittee held on 12 March, a request was made for regular financial reports to be provided.

A copy of the budget variance for the period to 28 February was tabled and the Water Services Manager confirmed that this information will become a regular report. The Subcommittee anticipates that silage sales will be significantly higher than budgeted this year.

**Solid waste**

Clarification was sought on the tonnage of residual waste transported from Rakaia for the September 08/09 period. This will be followed up by the Rooding & Street Services Manager.

**Emergency management report**

The report of the Emergency Management Officer was tabled.

**Road Safety**

The Committee heard that a new Road Safety Coordinator has been appointed to take up the position from 23 March.

**Service request**

It was noted that a request for service relating to no water availability appears to be outstanding. This will be followed up by the Water Services Manager.

The meeting concluded at 2.37 pm.