

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 23 July 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

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

Also in attendance Councillors R C Beavan, R J Kilworth and J A Kingsbury; Operations Manager, Water Services Manager, Roading Contracts Engineer and Committee Secretary.

Two members of the public attended.

APOLOGIES: Cr J A Everest

Sustained

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 23 April, 2009, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Reveley/Burgess

Carried

Implementation of the Tradewaste Bylaw Update

The Operations Manager reported on the implementation of the Tradewaste Bylaw to date and tabled information showing comparisons with other councils' trade waste fees.

Cr Lowe said that more consultation is required and recommended that the matter be deferred for discussion in-committee. He expressed his concern with the consultation process and the consent fees, and questioned the need for the annual conditional discharge fee which he considered to be an additional rate on businesses.

The Mayor reported that he has received correspondence from a number of ratepayers on this matter. He questioned the need for discussion to be in-committee.

The Committee supported continued discussion on the report, with further information on fees to be taken in-committee.

“That the report be received and that the additional information tabled be deferred for discussion in-committee as a commercial activity [Section 7(2)(h)].”

Lowe/Burgess

Carried

A show of hands gave 4 for and 3 against. Opposing the decision were the Mayor, Cr Leadley and Cr Brown.

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Financial reports

Reports for the period ending 31 May 2008 were received.

- Budget provision has been made in the current year for operation and maintenance of the potable water schemes. It was noted that the grouping of water supplies includes additional maintenance and operations accounts. There will be a coordinated approach to renewals.
- Budget provision of approximately \$500K has been made for Mill Creek bank stabilization in the current year. It was noted that there will be no access issues associated with future stabilization work for property owners adjacent to the creek in the Balmoral Place and green belt areas.

Roading Activity Expenditure 2008/ 09

“That Council applies for additional subsidy funding in the rail crossing protection devices work category of \$48,000, and for subsidy of \$51,000 on the 2008/09 overspend, to be a first call on the 2009/10 maintenance subsidy budget.”

Mayor/Holmes

Carried

Ashburton Business Estate

The Operations Manager reported that registrations of interest received for the construction of services inside the Business Estate footprint will be evaluated tomorrow by an evaluation panel and will then be referred to the Project Board on 13 August.

Reference was made to the signage on Works Road which is difficult to read from a distance. Mr Rouse confirmed that the Project Board intends to improve the promotional signage as well as the existing signage at the entry to the new development.

Councillors were provided with a copy of the Residents' Newsletter, circulated in July.

Wills St Parking

A meeting of the Town Centre Subcommittee has been scheduled for 27 August. The status of parking on Wills Street, adjacent to the Event Centre and Cinema, will be considered.

2009 / 10 Work Programme

The Roothing and Street Services Manager reported that the NZTA Board has approved interim funding to enable approved organisations to continue to operate their networks, however the work programme is required to be signed off by the Minister of Transport. It is anticipated this will take place prior to 1 September.

Mr Robertson advised that this Council's programme is as proposed in the LTCCP with funding confirmed for the Agnes Street / SH1 upgrade over the next three years.

Council Submission on “Proposed Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass Amendment [(No 2) 2009]

The Roothing and Street Services Manager referred to the submission which supports the proposed changes to Rule 41001. The submission also sets out Council's concerns at the potential negative impact the proposed changes will have on the durability of local transportation assets if permits are issued for this district, and further suggests that allowing heavier vehicles on selected routes would be an improvement for national good and as such should be nationally funded.

Mr Robertson explained that, based on today's costs for a 44 tonne load, the two vehicles would pay approximately \$1900 / 1000kms, however this will increase to over \$4,000 with weights over 44 tonnes. It is anticipated that there would be significant cost (millions) to upgrade the district's roads if Council wishes to be a party to this change, and therefore considered that the NLTP should contribute a significant portion of any investigations.

The Operations Manager advised that Council's submission supporting the changes will be made with a number of provisos, such as that there be no impact on the ADC network, or no impact to the community. Mr Rouse confirmed that the submission, as presented, will be expanded on verbally and in writing when it is made to the Hearing Panel.

“That the submission on proposed changes to the Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimension and Mass Amendment [(No. 2) 2009] be approved.”

Lowe/Brown

Carried

The Mayor left the meeting.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.53 pm and resumed at 3.06 pm.

Crash Reports

In addition to the crash report data for the reporting period, a copy of the NZ Transport Agency road safety issues report was tabled. The report is based on reported crash data and trends throughout the country for the 2004-2008 period, including the Ashburton district.

AWPT

The Roothing and Street Services Manager was requested to follow up reports of new seal failing on the Ashburton Staveley Road after work on that contract was completed.

Minor Improvements

“That the proposed scope of work for the minor improvements, as attached, be approved.”

Lowe/Reveley

Carried

New Kerb & Channel and Footpaths

The Committee received a schedule of the draft footpath resurfacing programme for 2009/10.

It was reported that the footpath reinstatement on Burnett Street / East Street corner has been completed with costs being met by the Ashburton Trust.

Public Conveniences

It was reported that the design for the Lake Heron toilets is being reviewed and the budget for this work will be carried over. It is proposed that the DoC design will be used with work to be completed this summer.

Railway Crossing - Overdale

The Committee heard that traffic counts have been taken at the Overdale rail crossing, following the fatal car crash. The Roothing & Street Services Manager reported that the crossing is likely to increase its rating in the NZ Rail schedule, however that schedule has in excess of 300 crossings ranked for urgent attention.

It was further reported that the rail crossing at Northpark Road will need to be reinstated on the NZ Rail schedule and this is being addressed by the Roothing & Street Services Manager.

Water Supplies

• Winchmore / Dromore

The Water Services Manager advised that consultation will be commencing with property owners on the Dromore and Winchmore schemes to discuss a restricted scheme.

Mayfield residents are to be updated on the progress of the filtration pilot trial.

The Mayor returned to the meeting at 3.22 pm.

• Methven / Springfield

The Water Services Manager reported that of the 76 restrictors on the Methven Springfield scheme, 27 were found to have been tampered with or bypassed.

Mr Guthrie said that when the matter was raised with the Operations Committee six months ago, the decision then was that restrictor replacement would be carried out and the cost of remedial works recovered from the offending parties. Council’s bylaw has provision for a penalty to be imposed if necessary.

It was agreed that information will be included in the Methven Snowfed to remind property owners connected to this scheme of their obligations.

• **Generator**

The former Hakatere generator has been retained at the South St yard ready for deployment if necessary. The Operations Manager advised that the possibility of installing the genset at the proposed pumping facility at the Business Estate is being explored.

• **Lyndhurst**

The official opening of the Lyndhurst scheme will take place tomorrow at 2.00 pm.

Wastewater

The Water Services Manager advised that exploratory work has been programmed to address the problem of sewer backflow. Preliminary costings for backflow preventers are expensive and options to reduce this cost are being investigated.

Wilkins Road Site

The Committee asked when access would be finalised for the septic waste disposal contractors, noting that this has been an ongoing request since 2007. The Water Services Manager advised that the delay is due to the need to secure the Wilkins Road site. A method of applying charges for any discharges also need to be identified.

The Operations Manager agreed to follow this up.

Emergency Management

The NZ Civil Defence Conference is being held in Ashburton this week.

Items transacted with the public excluded (3.45 pm)

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – the general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
7	Confirmation of minutes 4/06/09 [Now in open meeting] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of cleanfill, building & demolition material • Mt Somers water supply trunk main • Water Services preferred professional services provider 	Section 7(2)(i)	Conduct of negotiations
8	Water Services Subcommittee 9/07/09	Sections 7(2)(a) & 7(2)(h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons & Commercial activities
9	Trade Waste Bylaw Update	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Low/Brown

Carried

The meeting concluded at 3.48 pm.