

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **SERVICES AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 7 June, 2007, commencing at 1.39 pm.

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

Also in attendance Councillors R C Beavan, D Glass and R J Kilworth; Chief Executive, Operations Manager and Committee Secretary.

Six members of the public were in attendance.

APOLOGY: Cr M A Urquhart

Sustained

Police Presentation

Regional Area Commander, Inspector Dave Gaskin, was welcomed to the meeting and invited to present information on the changes to the Police Act 1958. Copies of the consultation document "*Policing Directions in NZ for the 21st Century*" are being made available for public comment throughout the country and submissions close on 31 July 2007.

The presentation concluded at 2.06 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

"That the minutes of the Services and Operations Committee meeting held on 26 April, 2007, be taken as read and confirmed."

Nelson/Burgess

Carried

Matters Arising

Farm Rd footpath

The Operations Manager reported that Electricity Ashburton will be completing work and reinstating the damaged footpath seal on Farm Road within the next week.

Minor safety work

The minor safety works delayed at the Grahams / Stranges Rd intersection is yet to be completed.

Footpath damage costs

The Operations Manager advised that a review of the footpath damage cost recovery policy has been added to the work programme. He confirmed that cost recovery is pursued whenever it is possible to identify the cause.

Application for Water Connections – Barkers Road, Mt Hutt Station Road, Methven

In a report to the Committee, the Water Services Manager sought agreement to a request for five new water connections to the Methven water supply. The new connections will be required to have on-site storage and it is considered that the connections won't impact on the levels of service in the urban area.

Cr Lowe reported that it is the view of the Methven Community Board that developments taking place in the urban area should take priority over lifestyle development. This was supported by Councillor Glass who said the matter should have been referred in the first instance to the Board.

“That the application for water connections to the Methven water supply be referred to the Methven Community Board for consideration.”

Lowe/Reveley

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

The Mayor left the meeting at 2.15 pm.

Financial Reports

In response to the Committee’s concern that the standby generators have not yet been installed on specified rural water schemes, the Operations Manager explained that some additional costs have arisen which is likely impact on the budget. Further information will be sought from the Water Services Manager.

The Operations Manager will also follow-up progress on the Tuarangi Road debris interceptor replacement with Opus Consultants who are preparing contract documents for work in this area.

Development in Ashburton district

The Operations Manager reported that a developer in the Racecourse Road area is looking to subdivide 11.9ha into 110 lots and is in discussion with staff on how the design structure will be progressed. Staff will be maintaining contact and seeking the involvement of other land owners in the area.

Proposed NRRP

Submission hearings on Chapter 5, flow and level regimes, will take place on 15 June. A joint council submission will be presented and the Operations Manager will also present Council’s stand alone evidence on the 30 additional requested changes to the Plan. A further hearing date has been confirmed for the water storage augmentation section of the Plan on 3-4 July 2007.

Cr Kilworth left the meeting at 2.45 pm.

State Highway Work

As part of the minor work being undertaken to complete the SH1 upgrade at Racecourse Road, East and West Streets, the Committee requested that signage be installed to clearly show the extent of the 50km/hr speed limit areas. A directional sign to the Airport, to be installed on Racecourse Road, was also sought.

LTNZ Audit

LTNZ has been requested to defer its procedural audit for three months to avoid this work being undertaken during the annual report preparation time.

Police Crash Report

The Committee received the traffic crash report for the period 16 January – 4 May 2007. The report was compiled from information provided by the Police and LTNZ and separately shows the accidents which occur on state highway and local road networks.

Reseals

The Operations Manager was requested to follow up the way in which second coat reseals are dealt with in new subdivisions, ie whether it is a cost to the developer or Council. It was reported that there are a number of subdivisions which have not had the second reseat.

Extraordinary Connections

A new policy is being developed to address applications for connections to water schemes from properties outside the scheme boundaries and allow staff to process the applications without the need to refer to the Committee. A policy for each scheme will be developed with input from the respective community associations / groups and the Methven Community Board.

The Committee adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.05 pm and resumed at 3.28 pm.

Transit NZ – Transportation Study

Transit Regional Manager, Mr Colin Knaggs, and Regional Transportation Manager, Mr Mike Blyleven, along with Opus Senior Transportation Engineer, Mr Bill Rice, were welcomed to the meeting.

Discussion points:

- 75 % of traffic on the SH1 bridge is generated locally.
- Consideration was given to relocating SH77 along Racecourse Road, however the preference is to maintain Moore Street.

Cr Kilworth returned to the meeting at 3.37 pm.

- Objective is to protect key strategic routes, develop a pedestrian and cycle strategy, a parking strategy, and public transport – encourage opportunities for walking / cycling.
- Focus on Lagmhor / Agnes / SH1 intersection.
- A long term bypass of Ashburton is not considered to be viable therefore SH1 will remain in the existing corridor; SH77 will remain on Moore St / Alford Forest Rd. Reinforce arterial around Oak Gr, Walnut Ave, Chalmers Ave. Link Bridge St from NE industrial development. Promote Company Rd as a key arterial.
- A new bridge arterial will help with South St and turning onto SH1 in Tinwald / East St.
- In the interim, as part of minor safety works, will look at intersections – eg Carters Tce.

Key improvements identified:

- Walnut Ave / SH1 intersection (priority) – joint TNZ / Council project – signals.
- Second bridge crossing largely serving local access and to provide relief on SH1.
- Lagmhor / Agnes / SH1 intersection – Transit seeking indication from Council on urgency for improvement at this location.

Other improvements

- Interim measures through Tinwald.
- Area between Moore and Havelock Sts – intersections congested – looking to increase lanes, merging down to one at intersections. Would result in lost parking. Railway car parking to have a central entry point, rather than three.

- NE Ashburton industrial development upgrade and in the longer term, improve access to Riverside industrial park.

Based on Council's Development Study, Transit has assumed a generous population / development growth and predicts the volume of traffic using the SH1 bridge to double, depending on level of increased economic activity in the district and its surrounding areas.

Councillors Burgess, Glass and Beavan left the meeting at 4.00 pm.

The Chief Executive referred to the proposed green field development to the east of Grove Street which would be a probable location for a new arterial route and bridge link. Based on projected growth it is likely that around 10-15,000 vehicles would use a second bridge.

Transit advised that its programme has been set for the next three years and they would be unable to commit to investigating any projects for a further two years.

The Committee agreed that all of the projects identified and reported on by Transit should be further investigated and programmed as they are developed. Transit was requested to prioritise the Agnes Street / Lagmhor Road and the Walnut Ave / SH1 intersections now.

Transit representatives agreed to develop issues and options for individual projects, including modeling of an alternative parallel bridge option. Council's cycling strategy will also be taken into account. The Opus report will be finalised and referred to Transit's management team for endorsement. Transit has confirmed that Council's Transportation Study will provide the basis for the way projects move forward.

The presentation concluded at 4.30 pm.

Mill Creek

The Operations Manager will provide a report to Council on 28 June, on the funding requirements for bank stabilisation work needed upstream of Belt Road.

The Water Services Manager attended the meeting at 4.48 pm.

Standby Generators

The Committee was presented with further information on the eight generators required for rural water schemes. Four tenders were received for supply of the generators and a budget shortfall of \$76,000 will require Council's approval to accept. It was noted that tenders were not called for the installation which will be carried out by Ashburton Contracting Limited at an agreed cost.

The Committee expressed concern at the increased cost of the work, which was not flagged in the budget process, and the delay in calling tenders which will prevent the generators being installed before winter.

The Mayor left the meeting at 4.56 pm.

The Operations Manager discussed options to progress the purchase of generators, noting that there will also be the issue of availability as the generators proposed for use on the rural water schemes would be purpose built. He asked whether Council's preference would be to competitively tender the installation costs.

The Mayor and Chief Executive attended the meeting at 4.58 pm.

The Mayor reiterated Council's concern that the community's expectation is that standby generators would be in place by now and this was relayed to a recent meeting of the Rural Relief Committee. He requested staff to investigate alternative options and revise costings for installation and cost savings that will allow the work to progress

Items transacted with the public excluded (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:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
<p>Confirmation of minutes 26/04/07 [now in open meeting] Contract C532 – new and replacement kerb & channel, Ashburton district</p>	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p>	<p>Commercial activities</p>

Holmes/Brown

Carried

There being no resolutions passed the Committee resumed in open meeting and concluded at 5.03 pm.