



Western Australia

Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of the Murchison Shire Council,
Held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,
On Friday **18th May 2012**, commencing at 9.35 am.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The President welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 9.35 am.

Mr Bernie Miller, recently appointed Regional manager Main Roads Mid West had accepted the invitation to meet Council in Murchison. Mr Miller will be available at 9.30 am having overnighted to Murchison en route Carnarvon to Geraldton.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members:

Councillor S A Broad, Shire President
Councillor R E Foulkes-Taylor, Deputy Shire President
Councillor M W Halleen,
Councillor B M Seaman
Councillor D A McTaggart *from 10.13 am*
Councillor P R Squires

Staff:

Mr JN (Neil) Warne, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Mr Brian Wundenberg, Works Supervisor *9.35 am – 10.08 am, 11.14 am – 11.50 am, 2.37 pm – 3.22 pm*

Apologies:

An apology had been received from Cr McTaggart who had been held up on his property.

Mr Bernie Miller, MRWA Mid West Regional Manager was welcomed by the Shire President. The President provided a short resume' of where council was at in relation the Ballinyoo Bridge project and that to date a financial commitment from MRWA towards the project had not been forthcoming.

Mr Miller indicated MRWA was very supportive of the bridge project but funds for such projects was very tight. The 'bridge' portion of the MRWA annual budget was never sufficient to meet high priority bridge work, the traffic count on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road is an impediment to the Ballinyoo Bridge getting into the high priority category.

Mr Miller said MRWA was preparing an internal business case in an attempt to attract funds for the project for the 2013/14 financial year and wanted to talk to BG&E officers about the level of preliminary plans completed, technical aspects about the foundations and whether the estimated cost of the project required any revision. Mr Miller indicated that MRWA would meet the cost of any of this work.

Mr Miller asked if council had knowledge of the proposed iron ore project in the north of the shire adjacent to the Carnarvon – Mullewa Road. The President said council had no new information.

The maximum length of road trains permitted on various Shire controlled roads was discussed. Mr Miller said he would have a look at what was permitted and might be in a position to review the existing rulings.

Referring to the possibility of the Australian bid for the SKA (Boolarady at Murchison site) the question was asked that if this bid was successful would MRWA take over the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road or at least the portion used for SKA traffic. Mr Miller said such a proposal would be considered, guide lines existed for the transfer of responsibility for roads, a lot of factors came into play and such transitions were never rapid.

The Shire President thanked Mr Miller for his attendance and for the assistance given by the Geraldton Staff of MRWA to Shire Staff at Murchison.

*Mr Miller left the meeting at 10.08 am.
The works Supervisor left the meeting at 10.08 am
Councillor Squires left the meeting at 10.09 am*

3. RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**4.1 Standing Orders****Moved: Councillor Halleen****Seconded: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor**

That the following Local Law-Standing Orders 2001 be stood down:

8.2 Limitation on the number of speeches

8.3 Duration of speeches

CARRIED 4-0*Councillor Squires returned to the meeting and resumed his seat 10.12 am**Councillor McTaggart attended the meeting 10.13 am***5. NEXT MEETING**The scheduled date for the next ordinary meeting is 15th June, 2012.**6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

An application had been received from Councillor Seaman for the June and July meetings of Council. This was withdrawn by Councillor Seaman.

Councillor Squires asked for leave of absence for the June meeting of Council.

Moved: Councillor Halleen**Seconded: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor**

That Councillor Squires be granted leave of absence for the June Meeting of Council.

CARRIED 6-0**7. NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS****Moved: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor****Seconded: Councillor McTaggart**

That Council move behind closed doors 10.26 am.

CARRIED 6-0*Council behind closed doors.***Moved: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor****Seconded: Councillor Squires**

That Council move from behind closed doors 10.50 am.

CARRIED 6-0**MORNING TEA***Council adjourned for morning tea 10.51 am**Council resumed at 11.07 am with all Councillors present.***8. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****8.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 20th April 2012****Background:**

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council have previously been circulated to all Councillors.

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**Moved: Councillor Mc Taggart****Seconded: Councillor Seaman**That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of 20th April 2012 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.**CARRIED 6-0**

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Shire President made no announcement at this time.

10. ACTION LIST**List ex December 2011**

No.	Item	Action	Status
1.	Clean out and dry out turkey nest water tank at Cockney Bills Corner	Alerted Squires Resources of this	Completed
2.	Emergency Management Plan	Met with Tex McPherson in Murchison on Thurs 10 th May, 2012	Commenced

This list has not been forgotten. Acting CEO trying to get to at least one 'old job' each month.

List ex March 2012

No.	Item	Action	Status
1.	Surrounds CEO's Residence	Remove old water tank Decorative front fence	Incomplete Incomplete

List ex April 2012

No.	Item	Action	Status
1.	Report on tackling 199-209 SLK Carnarvon-Mullewa Road construct and bitumen job	Report available this meeting	Complete
2.	Tender for the supply of a small Truck for maintenance person	Tenders called – to be considered this meeting	Completed
3.	New schedule of fees and charges	To be incorporated into the new Budget work and considerations	Incomplete (for June 2012)

List Resulting from 20th April meeting

No.	Item	Action	Status
1.	Regional Manager MRWA Mid West	Invitation for Mr Bernie Miller to meet Council this meeting	Completed. Invitation accepted
2.	FESA Financial Support Fire fighting	Account to be prepared for full cost less 20% contribution from Council	Completed Account sent
3.	Tender Beringarra-Pindar Road maintenance	Advise successful tender Advise CSIRO	Completed Completed
4.	JMG Electrical and Air-Con	Continue negotiations re Account for \$6492.62 January visit.	Continuing
5.	Astrofest	Advise relevant agencies of Astrofest decision of it becoming A bi-annual event next in 2013	Completed
6.	Prof Tingay presentation of Telescope	Organise event	Organised but Prof Tingay unavailable on this day

7.	WALGA Convention 1-3 Aug 2012	Obtain preliminary info inc accommodation options and advise Councillors	Completed
8.	Murchison Freight Service	Advise Mr Grey of Council's views of Easter deliveries	Completed
9.	Deputy CEO	Obtain draft contract document as basis for employment contract with Deputy CEO–elect.	Document obtained
10.	Circular letter to Electors	Prepare and mail circular letter	Completed

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Councillor Squires
That the CEO's Action List be accepted.

Seconded: Councillor Seaman

CARRIED 6-0

11. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None (*An item of interest disclosed later in the meeting item 12.5*)

12. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

The Works Supervisor attended the meeting 11.14 am

12.1 Monthly Plant Report April 2012 – Works Supervisor

HEAVY PLANT			Start	End	Total		
Plant Item	Year	REGO	Hours	Hours	Total	Service	Ownership
Cat Grader 12H	2005	MU 141	7994.8	8079	84.20		
Cat Grader 12M	2008	MU 51	4104	4176	72		
Volvo L110 Loader	2006	MU 65	4068.7	4091.4	22.70		
Komatsu Dozer	1997		7653	7660	7		
Cat Vibrating Roller	2005	MU 177	422	447.1	25.10		
John Deere Grader	2011	MU 121	1035.9	1150	114.10		
Bomag M/Tyre Roller			124	151	27		
Cat 938G Loader			3028.9	3103	74.10		

Iveco Prime Mover	2003	MU000	242805	243912	1107		
Nissan UD	2009	000 MU	102688	104126	1438		
Iveco Tipper	2004	MU 00	154174	156300	2126		

Generator 2 110kva	2011		1381.8	1664	282.20		
Generator 1 110kva	2011		1835.2	2319	483.80		
Maintenance Genset			16793	17008	215		
Construction Genset			5228.8	5444	215.20		

Mitsubishi Canter	2011	01 MU	42530	45468	2938		
Mitsubishi Canter	2004	MU 140	121629	124456	2827		
Toyota Prado	2010	MU0	42100	45240	3140		
Holden Rodeo	2008	MU 167	148265	150000	1735		
Isuzu DMAX	2009	MU 300	119024	121079	2055		
Toyota Hilux	2011	MU 1018	38532	43372	4840		
Toyota P/T Vehicle	1986	MU 1017	21079	21079			

Side Tipper	2001	MU 2010	191549.8	191660	110.20		
Side Tipper – Evertran	2009	MU 662	40220.72	40627	406.28		

Tri-Axle Low Loader	2008	MU 663	35145.8	35822	676.20		
No. 2 float	2001	MU2004	13551	14965	1414		
30000lt Water Tank	2005	MU 2024	9775	10321	546		
Dog Fuel Trailer	1993	MU 658					
Dog Fuel Trailer	1972	MU 2005					
Dolly 1-Red	2001	MU 2003	11038	12282	1244		
Dolly 2-Black	2000	MU 2009					

New Holland Ford Tractor	2006	MU 380	1402	1421	19		
Forklift			11663.4	11677.3	13.90		
Caravans							
Various small plant							
Ride on Mower - JD			105.5	116	10.50		

Comments in relation to Item 12.1

The CEO to continue negotiations with JMG in relation to their claim on Council for payment of the 24th January visit to adjust/repair the generators.

Council Staff to liaise with FESA Officer Jim McNamara in relation to maintenance required on the two FESA fire units allocated to Murchison. Advice from FESA is that the cost of all necessary maintenance will be met by FESA.

12.2 Works Report – Works Supervisor

CONSTRUCTION CREW

The construction crew have finished the Greenough River job and it is looking very smart. All signs have been erected. Whilst crew were there they also put a culvert approx 20km north of Yuin in a bad dip. There has been good feedback already on the culvert as it has made the road smoother. This took approx. 2 ½ days to complete.

Anzac day – All crew had Anzac day off and spent the Thursday (26th) placing an apron on second grid at Wooleen. The Settlement refuse site was also given a good tidy up by John & Paul. The crew then went on break.

Whilst the flood damage crew were on break Greydon Meads from Bullardoo (who has been carting gravel for the flood damage) carted gravel for the construction crew in readiness for their return from break. Greydon was asked to cart gravel in readiness for their return as it is a 40km round trip.

Crew have now moved up to the Murgoo Sanford River job. This job consists of gravel sheeting bad slippery sections from Murgoo turn off north to the Sanford River and further north as far as funds will allow. This section is expected to be completed by the 6th - 7th of June. The crew will then move gear back to the settlement and Ross will give all plant a good check over before moving down to Billabalong on the Carnarvon Mullewa road where they will commence the 7km of construction in readiness for sealing as per my report.

MAINTENANCE CREW

Maintenance crew will finish the Erong Road to the Milly Milly junction and then move camp to the Byro woolshed and then finish off the Byro Beringarra Road from Milly Milly to the Byro T junction. They will then move camp to the Byro homestead. From Byro homestead they will take both graders to Mt Narryer and work for two days around Mt Narryer/Curbur as this section is getting quiet bad. Once completed they will start from Byro and head north to the Gascoyne Junction boundary and then start back from Byro and head south including the Byro Woodleigh road.

Roads Graded this month:

Beringarra Mt Gould
 Beringarra Cue
 Beringarra to Milly Milly on the Beringarra Byro Road
 Erong Road
 Innouendy Road
 Yunda Road

Patch Grade:

Patch graded north of settlement to Mt Narryer turn off.

FLOOD DAMAGE CREW

Wadjers have completed works at the Curbur Lake section, the Curbur homestead and the flood damage between the Curbur homestead and the settlement (3 small patches). Muggon road which entailed the use of a scraper has also been completed.

Wadjers crew have now moved to the old cottage at the back of the Wooleen homestead not the woolshed as they believe that the woolshed has bad spirits.

Gravel carting on the Twin Peaks Wooleen road has been completed and Greydon is now carting on the Mt Wittenoom Wooleen road.

I have completed the flood damage pick up on the Mt Wittenoom road and the Boolardy Wooleen road. While crew are working on these roads we will have a report on the Butchers Track road and if funds are still remaining we will go back and gravel sheet a bit more of that road.

PLANT

INVESCO is still giving us problems and has been sent to Purcher for the fourth time and I have now decided to call in Page's Auto electrics to look at this truck. We will be disputing two bills from Purcher in relation to this.

30,000 ltr water taker was sent into Geraldton for repairs but this will require some serious work and may need to be booked in at a later date when convenient.

INVESCO 6 wheeler will require a gear box repair which Ross will complete.

Gardeners ute has gone to town to be assessed for repairs after hitting a kangaroo. No panel damage but will require a new bull bar.

GRIDS

As mentioned earlier, a new apron has been put on one side of grid just east of Wooleen. We will require one more day to complete apron on other side.

The two contractors I had been in contact with to build 3 new grids have not responded and I am now in discussions with Squires Resources to use their cement truck and the job will be completed by Shire staff with use of Squires agitator.

STAFF

Neil Combe is back in the settlement and we have a meeting scheduled with Rebecca Hayward from APM, Neil, Dianne and myself to discuss his return to duties.

Ross (Fitter) has been to the Durack Institute in Geraldton with Neil on Monday and now has a training schedule to improve his qualifications.

All staff completed a hearing test on 10th May.

Staff (social club) are going on a trip to Shark Bay and are hiring a bus so this may be an opportune time to incorporate the road inspection.

10 km Construction/Reseal

This report is now completed as an attachment to the Agenda.

Comments in relation to Item 12.2

Provision will need to be made for a 'Boolardy' grid in the 2012/13 budget.

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Moved Councillor Seaman

That the Work's Supervisor's report be received and adopted.

Seconded Councillor Halleen

CARRIED 6-0

The Works Supervisor left the meeting 11.50 am

Standing Orders

Resolved that standing Orders be suspended.

Ms Lydia Highfield from WALGA Workplace Solutions attended the meeting.

The process of the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer was progressed.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch 12.15 pm

Council resumed at 1.55 pm

The matter of the process of the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer continued.

Ms Highfield left the meeting at 2.36 pm.

Standing Orders

Resolved that Standing orders be resumed

The Works Supervisor attended the meeting 2.37 pm.

WORKS MATTERS WHILE THE WORKS SUPERINTENDENT IS IN ATTENDANCE

Works Supervisor's Special Report

Construction of 7 (minimum) kms road to bitumen surface 199-206 SLK Carnarvon-Mullewa Road

Council considered the Works Supervisor's Special Report.

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor Squires

Seconded: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

That the Works Supervisor's Special Report on the construction of seven kms bitumen surface road 199-206 SLK Carnarvon-Mullewa Road be received.

CARRIED 6-0

12.3 Tender for a Small Truck (Plant maintenance person)

Background:

Tenders for this have been called, closing 12 Noon Tuesday 15th May 2012 as per Council directions and as provided for on the budget.

Interest Declared:

None

Statutory Environment:

Calling Tenders for work related vehicles is well within Councils legislative boundaries.

Financial implications:

An amount of \$50,000 is provided for this on the budget.

Voting:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISIONS:

Moved: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Councillor Halleen

That the tenders received for the supply of a used small truck for use by the Council depot/vehicle maintenance be now received.

CARRIED 6-0

One tender only was received being-

Daimler Trucks-Perth
2005 Mitsubishi Canter FE83
Tray top 3.6mX2.4M
5 speed, 4 cyl turbo, 4950 GVM
36434 kms
Price \$29,990

Moved: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Councillor Squires

That the tender received be not accepted and that quotes be sought by circular letter from reputable vehicles sales yards for a used vehicle as per Council specifications with quotes received for consideration at the June meeting of Council.

CARRIED 6-0

12.4 Aboriginal heritage Act – Kalli Road

Background:

As directed by Council WALGA was written to in relation to the approx 5.8 kms of new (Kalli) road south of the previously existing road which ran very close to the homestead and sheds. A sketch of the area which indicates the 'old' road and the 'new' section of road has been provided.

WALGA letter reply attached to the agenda.

Interest Declared:

None

Statutory Environment:

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 provides that councils are requiredetc (see letter attached)

Financial implications:

There could be some costs if Council is required to comply with the Act retrospectively

Voting:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S

Moved: Councillor McTaggart

Seconded: Councillor Seaman

That further advice on this matter from Mr Marcus Holmes of Land Equity Legal be sought as suggested by WALGA.

CARRIED 6-0

Outside Staff Working Roster

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor Seaman

Seconded Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

That the staff report on the progress of the trial 'alternative' working roster and this include cost, savings, (a cost benefit analysis) and other factors including comment on human resource benefit or disadvantage and the circumstances which decide whether jobs are 'run' from the settlement or from a 'camp out'.

CARRIED 6-0

The Works Supervisor left the meeting at 3.22 pm.

12.5 Mrs Emma Foulkes-Taylor – Dust Problem Beringarra-Pindar Road

Background:

Extract of letter-

‘I am writing to remind council of the continuing serious dust occurring at Tallering and Yuin Homesteads and Pia Wadjarri from heavy trucks and fast light vehicle traffic associated with the ASKAP at Boolardy.

Various dust suppression solutions, including cement stabilizing and bitumen sealing have been mooted in the past at forums such as ratepayers meeting but the problem continues today.

Whilst a certain level of dust is expected in this country it is extremely disheartening to have such quantities settle on the homestead so regularly.

I strongly urge Council to include in next year’s budget some form of sealing for these three sections of road east of the above dwellings.’

Interest Declared:

Councillor Foulkes-Taylor declared an interest in this matter and left the council Chambers 3.23 pm

Financial Implications:

If Council decides to finance a remedy to this problem there will be costs involved. If this problem can be accepted by CSIRO a remedy may be possible with that agency funding some of the cost.

Voting:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER’S

Moved: Councillor McTaggart

Seconded: Councillor Halleen

That correspondence be entered into with CSIRO in relation to the on-going dust problem in three areas (two homesteads and Pia Wadjarri) of the Beringarra–Pindar Road which has been exasperated by ASKAP traffic and that enquiries be made as to whether CSIRO would assist in financing a remedy to this problem by special treatment of the three section of say one kilometre each on say a 50-50 basis.

CARRIED 6-0

Councillor Foulkes-Taylor returned to the meeting 3.25 pm

12.6 Re-Schedule Date for Road Inspection

Background:

This item was fully considered at the February and April meetings of Council.

It was not possible to stay with the 14th and 15th May dates selected.

Council to decide on fresh dates. All other arrangements can remain the same.

OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

That the annual road inspection be re-scheduled for.....with all other arrangements remaining the same as previously decided.

The Officer’s recommendation was not adopted as period ahead (approximately the next six weeks) includes a very busy period on pastoral stations including cattle mustering. As all Councillors are involved in the pastoral industry it was not prudent or possible to set a road inspection time.

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor McTaggart

Seconded: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

That the matter of the dates for the road inspection be listed for consideration on the agenda for the June meeting of Council.

CARRIED 6-0

12.7 Health/Building Surveyor (visited Murchison 7th 8th May 2012)**Health/Building /Planning Report May 2012****Water Sampling**

A series of water samples will be taken over the next six weeks to determine a consistency with the National Water Quality standards.

The reason for the six week term is to receive a better reflection of the water quality over a period of time and if possible keep the use of Chlorine out of the system.

Pia Rubbish Site

An inspection of the Pia Wadjari aboriginal community was carried out to investigate a new waste facility site. The community is virtually stuck on a rock so with this in sight the new site was selected some 100 meters to the West and out of any major water courses. Contact will be made with the appropriate authorities on the preference of site.

Council Chambers Exit signs

It was noted that the Council Chambers had no exit signs indicating passage of exit during an emergency. The Chambers and associated foyer is a class 9b building (Public Building) and under the Building Code of Australia require exit signs to be positioned at doorways giving clear unrestricted pathways to the exterior of the building.

The total occupancy for the building is less than 50 persons which will allow reflective exit signs to be used rather than the normal 240 volt type, it is recommended that the reflective signs be used in this instance, they can be purchased at any Fire service store at a minimal price.

Murchison Oasis Road House

An inspection of the above mentioned Roadhouse was carried out and was found to be in reasonable order at time of inspection.

Items noted are;

- 1 The holes in the wall behind the vanity and stove are still there – item noted on previous inspections.
- 2 The chiller in the freight shed was not operating
- 3 Grime on the entrance door, fuel bowser and in the ablution facility were brought to the attention of the proprietor, only a minor issue but reflects what the visitor first see when entering town.

Towns Waste Facility

In reasonable order at time on inspection, it was noted that tipping items were spread over a larger area than in previous inspections. A more approved method of disposal is to place the rubbish into trenches or cells and cover it at least on a weekly basis.

Frogs

The ongoing concern regarding frogs in toilet cisterns has been brought to my attention. Frogs are more of a nuisance rather than a Public Health issue and their control is still yet to be determined. The use of Chlorine in the cisterns may alleviate the frog problem but creates other issues such as the destruction of anaerobic bacteria in the Septic Tank and the erosion of plumbing fixtures due to the high CL2 reading.

Once an effective non polluting form of control is established a notice will be placed in the Murchison Monologue.

Note from the EHO Report (Freight Shed Chiller)

This was repaired on 11th May and is now fully functional.

COUNCIL DECISION:**Moved: Councillor Squires****Seconded: Councillor McTaggart**

That the Environmental Health Surveyor's Report be received and the proposed Settlement effluent disposal system be referred to the Murchison Settlement Development Committee with a view to progressing this project.

CARRIED 6-0

13. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

None

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED**14.1 Shire President**

The Shire President reported on the recent Mid West development Commission meeting he had attended.

The President mentioned the SKA site decision process. An announcement was expected sometime next month.

In relation to the Ballinyoo Bridge this was mentioned in a recent report listing future projects as part of the Mid West Infrastructure Investment Plan.

The President advised that he and the Deputy President had met Neil Warne on 25th April and discussed and agreed on arrangements whereby Mr Warne was available to stay on as Acting CEO (for up to six months) until a CEO had been appointed and had taken up the position.

The President said he was pleased to see the maintenance graders in the north of the Shire and commented on the very satisfactory standard of grading.

14.2 Councillors**Councillor Foulkes-Taylor.**

Councillor Foulkes-Taylor said he had been pleased, with Councillor Halleen, to attend the WALGA Murchison Zone conference in Cue on 11th May. The Murchison 'Flying Minutes' motion had received a mixed reception and in the end was referred to the WALGA executive for research as to its implication and operation for report back to the next zone conference.

Several speakers addressed to meeting with a lot of information.

Councillor Squires.

Councillor Squires had attended the Murchison Settlement Development Committee meeting on 25th April at which Councillor McTaggart had been elected Chairman. This was a very positive meeting. The minutes are available for Council today.

Councillor McTaggart

Councillor McTaggart expanded on the Settlement Development Committee meeting and particularly asked council to note the projects/matters considered of high priority.

Councillor Seaman

Councillor Seaman commented on the excellent Anzac Day arranged by Councillor Rossco and Mrs Emma Foulkes-Taylor. The Anzac Day service, the family fun day afterwards and the evening dinner was very much appreciated and enjoyed.

Councillor Halleen.

Councillor Halleen reported on the activities of the Carnarvon RBG and the level of wild dogs control being achieved and the operation generally of the organisation. He raised the matter of Council contributing \$10,000 towards the 2012/13 operations of the RBG.

15. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

15.1 Murchison Settlement Advisory Committee Meeting 25th April, 2012

Minutes e mailed to Councillors.

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor McTaggart

Seconded: Councillor Squires

That the minutes of the Murchison Settlement Development Committee meeting of 25th April, 2012 be received and Council note the priority projects listed in the minutes as under-

Shade House south of the road House: clean out, new roof and paving before July 2012

Costing the proposed low level limestone wall in front of the Sports Club and that an application be made for funding this improvement from 'Crosslands' Community Fund with a view to the completion of this project prior to the mid July Polocrosse Carnival

Concrete (replace existing) the front of the Road House Motel Units

Plans and costs be obtained for the construction of a separate laundry facility just east of the existing toilets/showers near the Road house

and that a meeting of the Crosslands Community Fund Committee be convened in the near future (when the estimate of the low level wall is available) to consider the request from the Settlement Development Committee.

CARRIED 6-0

The Senior Finance Officer attended the meeting 4.25 pm

16. FINANCE

16.1 Financial Activity Statements 30th April 2012

File:

Author: Dianne Daniels Senior Finance Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 15th May 2012

Attachments: Financial Activity Statements for 10 months to 30th April 2012

Balance Sheet

Income Statement Detail

Income Statement by Nature & Type

Income Statement Summary

Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider adopting the monthly financial statements for 10 months to 30th April, 2012.

Background:

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. Regulation 34 requires that local government report on a monthly basis and prescribes what is required to be reported.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.4—Specifies that a local government is to prepare “such other financial reports” as is prescribed.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Regulation 34 states:

(1) A local government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d) for that month in the following detail:

- (a) Annual budget estimates, taking into account any expenditure incurred for an additional purpose under section 6.8(1)(b) or (c);
- (b) Budget estimates to the end of month to which the statement relates;
- (c) Actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the month to which the statement relates;
- (d) Material variances between the comparable amounts referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c);
- (e) The net current assets at the end of the month to which the statement relates.

Strategic Implications:

Nil.

Policy Implications:

Nil.

Financial Implications:

Reports showing year to date financial performance allow monitoring of actual expenditure, revenue and overall results against budget targets.

Consultation:

UHY Haines Norton

Comment:

Summary of Financial Results April 2012

The Current Position at 30 April 2012 is a surplus of \$361,271, so a strong improvement on 1 July 2011 brought forward, which was a deficit of \$16,639, but down \$190,238 on March. May will see an improvement in the Current Position as the next grant from the Grants Commission is due and also in May we have received the R4R 2010-2011 Regional Component Funding of \$309,859 (earmarked for the new seal SLK 199-206 scheduled for commencement in July) and the R4R 2011-2012 Individual Component Funding of \$505,851, (earmarked for future sealing after completion of SLK 199-206).

This month we have again reviewed those expense accounts that are over budget by 10% or more and have inserted comments in the right hand column of the attached Income Statement by Program – Detail. As of the 31 March, Public Works Overheads were under-allocated by \$160,725 and Plant Operating Costs were under-allocated by \$57,173, distorting the Actual to Budget result. These amounts have been allocated pro-rata across the programs on 1 April, which has resulted in an almost perfect allocation of POC, but there is \$26,917 left in PWOH, so still some review required there.

Rates

2011 – 2012 Rates have not yet been issued, but the Shire of Murchison has been given approval by the Department of Local Government to proceed with the issuing of rates, despite the fact that they are still sitting with the State Administrative Tribunal. The SFO has commenced work on resolving the historic rates queries and will be in a position to raise rates on or before 18th May.

CSIRO

CSIRO are disputing SOM Contribution Claim 6, with payment being withheld by them until agreement can be reached. The point of contention is that the charges for November and December work were spread over two Claims (5 and 6) and CSIRO were of the belief that all 2011 charges had been finalised in Claim 5. We at no time gave them cause to assume that there would be no further charges for 2011 works when Claim 5 was issued. We have been corresponding with CSIRO in an effort to resolve this quickly and have offered to cover the entire cost of Administration and Overheads, which might otherwise have been claimed, on Claim 6.

We have been in contact again with CSIRO in May and received correspondence that the matter would be discussed at executive level within CSIRO, but have had no feed-back on this to date.

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority.

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S:**Moved: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor****Seconded: Councillor Seaman**That Council adopt the financial statements for the period ending 30th April 2012, as attached.**CARRIED 6-0****16.2 Accounts Paid during the period since the last list was adopted/endorsed by Council**

File:

Author: Dianne Daniels Senior Finance Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 15th May, 2012

Attachments: EFT & Cheque Details for April 2012

Matter for Consideration:

Authorisation of accounts paid during the month of April 2012.

Background:

Accounts paid are required to be submitted each month.

Statutory Environment:

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Reg 13(1)–Requires that where the Chief Executive Officer has delegated power to make payments from the Municipal or Trust funds a list of accounts paid is to be prepared each month.

Strategic Implications:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Financial Implications:

Payment from Council's Municipal Account

Consultation:

None

Comment:

Payments made during the month of April, 2012 as per attached schedule.

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**Moved: Councillor Seaman****Seconded: Councillor Halleen**

That the accounts as per the attached Schedule presented to this meeting totalling \$250,173.27 be passed for payment/endorsed by Council.

CARRIED 6-0*The Senior Finance Officer left the meeting at 5.05 pm.***16.3 Shire of Meekatharra – Distribution of Regional Component of Royalties for Regions Funds****Background:**

Some time ago we wrote to the Shires of Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne asking that, following the agreement whereby the Shires of Meekatharra and Murchison assigned their approx \$500,000 Regional Component of Royalties for Regions funding for 2011/12 to Upper Gascoyne, the Shire of Murchison would be pleased to receive the (approx \$500,000 each) Royalties for Regions Regional Component for 2012/13 in

order that this can be applied to the Ballinyoo bridge project. A similar gesture would occur in 2013/14 when Upper Gascoyne and Murchison would assign their approx \$500,000 to Meekatharra.

Meekatharra has advised by 'phone that no formal agreement of the kind described above existed and have expressed reluctance to be part of the arrangement described. See letter and finance distribution chart attached to the agenda.

In addition the Shire of Meekatharra has proposed by telephone that for the next two financial years a fairer way of Meekatharra and Murchison sharing the three (MK, GU and MU) Regional Components is to share 50:50 the amount of the three components. This should be acceptable to Murchison especially as it seems now the bridge project will not proceed until the 2012/13 financial year.

Interest Declared:

None

Financial Implications:

Council may not recoup the full \$505,851 made available to Upper Gascoyne in 2011/12.

Statutory Environment:

Funding considerations for L.G. projects are well within Council's legislative boundaries.

Voting Requirement:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

Moved: Councillor McTaggart

Seconded: Councillor Halleen

That the communication from the Shire of Meekatharra in connection with distribution the three Councils distribution (MK, GU and MU) of the Regional Component Royalties for Regions funding 2011/12 – 2013/14 be received and that Council, recognising the gesture in favour of the Shire of Upper Gascoyne in the 2011/12 financial year and the possible unknowns in R for R funding in future years Council favour a 50:50 split, Meekatharra and Murchison of the 2012/13 and 2013/14 Regional Component R for R funds of the three Shires Meekatharra, Upper Gascoyne and Murchison.

CARRIED 6-0

17. DEVELOPMENT

Nil

18. ADMINISTRATION

18.1 WALGA Local Government Convention 1-3 August 2012 Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre

Background:

The annual Local Government Convention is on in Perth 1-3 august, 2012. Council should confirm its delegation to attend this convention and authorise the completions of registrations and booking of accommodation. Full information available to each Councillor today.

Interest Declared:

None

Financial Implications:

The cost increases according to the size of the delegation. The budget provides for this expenditure.

Voting:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council appoint Councillors Broad and Foulkes-Taylor as Council's official 'voting' delegates at the 2012 Local Government Convention with Councillors Halleen, Squires and McTaggart and the Acting CEO and their ladies, as nominated, as attendees.

CARRIED 6-0**18.2 Murchison Freight Service****Background:**

In August 2011 Council accepted the tender of Grey's Freight Service of \$1150 per month (Exempt of GST) for the Freight Service to Murchison. This contract was for one year to 31st August, 2012.

It may be an appropriate time to consider calling tenders for a continuation of this service. A period of say two years could be considered as the period tenders for this service are called for.

Interest Declared:

None

Statutory Environment:

Calling tenders for this service is well within 'normal Council operations'

Financial Implications:

Any additional costs can be provided for in the 2012/13 budget if a decision is made by the July meeting of Council.

Voting Requirement:

Simple majority

COUNCIL DECISION/FFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:**Moved: Councillor McTaggart****Seconded: Councillor Squires**

That tenders be called for the once each week Murchison Freight Service for the period 1st September 2012 to 31st August, 2014 and that the document on which tenders will be based fully detail the requirements of the service including the kinds of goods to be transported, time and regularity of the service etc.

CARRIED 6-0**19. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Seaman has submitted the following motion for consideration by Council at this meeting:

Background:

'City of Greater Geraldton – Agricultural Precinct 2009 and Beyond

The City of Greater Geraldton has published a document headed "A unique opportunity for the development of an Agricultural Precinct" stating "A vision by and for the community of Greater Geraldton City region."

Under a heading "Geraldton, Ripe for the future", the city has stated that 'a host of major projects will see Geraldton continue to build on the modern city it has become'.

- * Oakajee Port and industry precinct
- * Broadband network
- * In contention to be "home of the largest telescope ever created"

The SKA project, nor the Oakajee Port are situated within the city Local Government area and the use of other Councils infrastructure projects for the promotion of the City of Greater Geraldton is considered both desperate and misleading.

There are no interest, statutory environment or financial implications issues with this item. Voting is by simple majority.

MOTION SUBMITTED and COUNCIL DECISION:**Moved: Councillor Seaman****Seconded: Councillor Squires**

1. That the Shire of Murchison write to the City of Greater Geraldton to remind them that, if the project is successful, the city will not be "The home of the largest telescopes" being the SKA project, situated some 300 km's from the City of Geraldton, in the Shire of Murchison.

2. That the CEO indicate to the City of Geraldton that the Shire of Murchison will expect a retraction or revision of this “Agricultural Precinct” document.

3. That the CEO ask for a formal apology by the City of Geraldton for this blatant misrepresentation of where the Future SKA project could be situated, if the Australian bid is successful.

CARRIED 6-0

20. CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

Date	Activity
25 th April	Attended the Murchison Settlement Development committee
25 th April	Discussion with the President and Deputy President in connection with J N Warne continuing as Acting CEO. Satisfactory arrangements were made.
25 th April	Participated in Anzac Day in Murchison Settlement. An excellent ‘Murchison’ event.
9 th May	Inspected road sealing works with Works Supervisor 10-20 kms south of Murchison Settlement on Carnarvon-Mullewa Road. Excellent weather for laying bitumen and a very organised bitumen crew on the job.
10 th May	Met FESA Officer Tex Mc Pherson in Murchison to discuss re-commencement of the formation of an updated Emergency Management Plan for Murchison. This is ex December 2011 CEO Action List.
11 th May	Attended Murchison Zone of WALGA Conference in Cue with Councillors Foulkes-Taylor and Halleen.
14 th May	Council business in Geraldton including MU 0 service, collect books and records ex Bird Cameron’s and visit Durack Institute of Technology with Council Fitter Ross Collins.

COUNCIL DECISION/OFFICER’S RECOMMENDATION:

That the CEO’s Activity Report be accepted.

CARRIED 6-0

21. URGENT BUSINESS

Town Planning

Report on the Shire of Murchison Town Planning Scheme preparation.
Tony Turner, Director, Geraldton Independent Planners carrying out this task.

FESA Meeting

Date to be selected for Murchison Emergency Management Plan Meeting – Suggested (by FESA Officer Tex as Noon Tuesday 12th June, 2012.)

COUNCIL DECISION:

Resolved that Mr Tex McPherson FESA Emergency Management Officer be advised that Tuesday 12th June 2012 at 12 Noon is a suitable date/time for the Murchison Emergency Management Plan meeting in the Council Chamber, Murchison and Council provide a working ‘sandwich’ lunch on this day.

2012/13 Rates

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor McTaggart

Seconded: Councillor Seaman

That the 2012/13 budget be built around the level of rates being the same as was imposed for the 2011/12 financial year and that since this level of rates includes a differential rate Council advertise, as required by

section 6.36 of the Act, that it is Council's intention to impose such differential rate and at the expiration of the 'advertising period' during which time submissions may be accepted Council, should if it deems it desirable to proceed with the differential rate proposal, seek Ministerial Approval under section 633 (3) of the Act to so impose the differential rate.

CARRIED 6-0

Chief Executive Officer

Earlier in the day Council had, with the assistance of Workplace Solutions Officer Lydia Highfield, conducted an interview for the position of Chief Executive Officer.

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Councillor Squires

That Council direct the Shire President to contact Workplace Solutions Officer Lydia Highfield to conduct a final reference check in relation to the candidate interviewed earlier today and on that being satisfactory Council requests Ms Highfield to offer the position of Chief Executive Officer to the candidate (interviewed earlier today).

CARRIED 6-0

Upper Gascoyne-Murchison Regional Collaborative Group

COUNCIL DECISION:

Moved: Councillor Halleen

Seconded: Councillor Foulkes-Taylor

That the Shire of upper Gascoyne be written to seeking the reasons why that council decided not to continue in partnership with this Council in the Upper Gascoyne-Murchison Regional Collaborative Group which would have delivered 'Government required' strategic reports at Government expense

and

That the Local Government Department be advised that Council is committed to the Upper Gascoyne-Murchison RCG and looks forward to the necessary funds being made available to enable the strategic reports it will deliver being completed by RSM Bird Cameron of Geraldton.

CARRIED 6-0

22. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

None

Recognition of Long Service to the Council

The Deputy Shire President Councillor Foulkes-Taylor rose to address the Council. He said this month marks 25 years of service to the Council by the Shire President Councillor Simon Broad, Cr Foulkes-Taylor commended Cr Broad on this long and eventful and so generously given period of service and that he had been through both good and some difficult times on the Council. He was first elected in May 1987 – in those days Council elections were held in May.

Councillor Foulkes-Taylor's Comments were received with acclamation.
Councillor Broad suitably responded.

23. MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at 6.02 pm.