



SHIRE OF YORK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors
Held in the Indoor Stadium, Forrest Street, York on
Wednesday, 25th February, 2015 at 5.01pm

OPENING

The Commissioner James Best declared the meeting open at 5.01pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Commissioner welcomed Gordon Marwick, Freeman of York, the Shire President Cr Matthew Reid, and Councillors Smythe, Wallace and Hooper

ATTENDANCE

Commissioner James Best

STAFF

Graeme Simpson, Acting Chief Executive Officer; Tyhscha Cochrane, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Tabitha Bateman, Financial Controller; Gail Maziuk, Compliance/Human Resources; Allan Rourke, Manager Works & Services, Helen D'Arcy-Walker, Executive Support Officer

APOLOGIES

Nil

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE

There were 22 people in the Gallery at the commencement of the meeting

OVERVIEW OF THE 2013/14 FINANCIAL YEAR

Commissioner James Best stated that the 2013/14 financial year has been an eventful one with York being a liveable and sustainable community to live in with many highlights.

Council proudly supports events and many community groups and funded projects to the value of around \$90,000, this figure does not include the many in-kind contributions provided to community groups and the upkeep and development of Council owned facilities.

The exceptional contribution by the Residency Museum in relation to heritage preservation and presentation was rewarded in the 2014 State Heritage Awards, where the Museum gained Highly Commended status for the 'outstanding contribution to heritage by a community based organisation'. Samantha Good, a Museum volunteer and Relief Curator was a finalist in the category 'outstanding voluntary contribution to heritage by an individual'.

York is about heritage and its history and the focus of York needs to be around celebrating its heritage and how we promote this. Commissioner Best commended the Curator of the York Residency Museum, Carol Littlefair and her team on their achievements and for the recognition received from an external body.

Another highlight was the recreational facilities upgrade including the playground at Forrest Oval Sports Precinct which was co-funded by the sporting clubs, shade shelter and seating at Candice Bateman Park and paving, painting and patio at the York Swimming Pool. The establishment of the Early Childhood Hub near the Recreation Centre is a great asset and provide an opportunity to further develop early childhood facilities in our community.

Commissioner Best extended a vote of thanks to Sergeant Gubanyi and his team for their efforts in keeping York a safe community to live in. As yet he is to see any graffiti and vandalism in York. York is a safe community and this is something that we can promote to families considering relocating to York.

Commissioner Best thanked Councillors and staff for their hard work, passion and commitment to York.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer stated that the Shire's overall budget was larger than normal as it commenced close to \$20 million. However due to either no matching funds or grants not being received a number of large projects were cancelled or did not proceed such as the Town Hall Refurbishment, Early Childhood Hub, York Merredin Road Project, RTG Amalgamation to name just a few.

The Shire allocated \$2.6 million on capital projects and over half of this expenditure for capital projects was put to road building including plant relating to road building. \$1.1 million was spent on roads directly.

The Shire had a surplus of \$1.3 million which included some carried forward projects into the 2014/15 financial budget and also there were savings on municipal funded projects.

Another large component of expected income was from the sale of several Shire properties, which did not eventuate. The only property sold through this financial year was the Old Fire Station.

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

Receiving of the 2013/14 Annual Report

Moved: Sandra Paskett

Seconded: Gordon Marwick

“That the Shire of York 2013/14 Annual Report be received”.

LOST: 10/5

Receiving of the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June, 2014

Moved: Sandra Paskett

Seconded: Duncan Steed

“That the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June, 2014 be received”

LOST: 12/3

Receiving of the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2014

Moved: Duncan Steed

Seconded: Eva Kane

“That the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2014 be received”

LOST: 12/3

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Guy Lehmann

Question:

Could I have confirmation that the report was ratified by the Audit Committee.

I refer to the Minutes of the Finance, Risk & Audit Committee meeting held on 8th December, 2014, Resolution FRAC181214. The Committee did not accept the Audit report and voted to roll over the review and acceptance when the Auditors could be in attendance. This was due to occur in February, 2015.

I also refer to a letter from Macri Partners which states the 2014 financial accounts will only be issued after the Audit Committee review.

Has this occurred and is there a Legislative requirement that the Audit Committee must approve the financial accounts

Response:

We did receive advice and while the Auditors report was presented to the Audit Committee it is not a requirement for the report to be ratified by the Audit Committee.

Cr Matthew Reid

Question:

On 4th June, 2014 the then CEO received a letter from Anthony Macri which clearly states the Independent Auditor's Report will only be issued after the Audit Committee's review. Any changes that may arise from the Audit Committee's review, if appropriate, may be incorporated in the annual financial report and the Independent Auditor's Report can then be signed and issued. Nevertheless, a draft audit report will be provided to the Audit Committee including, if any, non-compliance and/or qualification matters.

Response:

There is no legislative requirement that the Auditors report needs to go through the Audit Committee.

Section 7.12A (2), (3) and (4) of the Local Government Act requires the Auditor to meet with Council at least once per year and for Council to examine the report and take corrective action if needed.

The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee met in December and Macri Partners did not attend. The Committee made a request at that meeting that they wished to meet with the Auditors. Since then the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee has been disbanded.

Cr Reid stated the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee is not disbanded and asked if there was financial governance or not?

Commissioner Best stated there is nothing untowards in the interim report.

Cr Reid stated in his view the interim report is not compliant.

Commissioner Best stated that it his understanding that the Auditors have signed off on the accounts.

Mr Bill Cebula

Mr Cebula stated he had read the Act and the Council is to meet with the Auditors. Have you as the Commissioner met with the Auditors.

Response:

No I haven't yet met with the Auditors.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 5.22pm.