

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012, AT 3.00 PM.**

**PRESENT** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs Bolger, Beale, Gover, Grant, Highsted and Sharp.

**IN ATTENDANCE** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), the Corporate Support Officer, (Mrs Tracey Millan) and three members of the public in the gallery.

**APOLOGIES** Crs Davis, Redhead and Watt apologised for absence.

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**1. REPRESENTATION REVIEW – CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO COUNCIL’S PROPOSAL (33.16.3)**

A memo had been received from the Chief Executive, together with copies of four submissions received that reflected a desire to retain the status quo as far as legally possible.

Mrs Sally McIntyre spoke to her submission and said the Chief Executive should have publicly acknowledged his error and was concerned it had been the second time in less than six months that the Council had had to backtrack and start a new consultation process.

She said it was remiss of the Chief Executive and the Mayor to not include constituents who had submitted and appealed the proposal six years ago. Road shows were a good idea while the draft LTP and Annual Plans were being consulted on.

She was supportive of the Eastern Southland Branch of Federated Farmers submission to expand the Gore District.

Mrs McIntyre said it was presumptive of the Chief Executive to recommend that the Council amend the representation proposal. She requested that the meshblocks be accurately identified and that the affected people be given the chance to have a say through more consultation.

*Mrs McIntyre tabled a written copy of her submission.*

The Chief Executive said he had acknowledged his error in the second sentence of the third paragraph of his memo that had led to the proposal that was before the Council. He regretted the error and said it was now up to the Council to consider if it was of enough magnitude to warrant fresh consultation or whether the submissions received can be addressed via some correction to the model put out.

### **Terry Road Residents Submission**

Cr Bolger thought it appeared the submitters did not understand the proposal and they were not going to be added to the urban ward. The proposal was to shift the population from the Waimumu-Kaiwera ward to the Waikaka ward.

The Chief Executive advised he had written to the Terry Road submitters advising of his error and explained the proposal. The recommendation was to approve in principle and the details surrounding the meshblocks could be worked out at a subsequent meeting.

In response to Cr Bolger asking if the submitters had realised that electoral boundaries were set up differently to rating boundaries, the Chief Executive said any misunderstandings would be tidied up once the process had been completed.

His Worship said the Council needed to make sure that people's concerns were based on the correct facts around the connection between rating and electoral boundaries.

Cr Sharp said it made sense to include the Terry Road landowners in the Waikaka ward.

In response to Cr Sharp asking if the process was subject to a timeframe, the Chief Executive said it was designed to fit in with the Long Term Plan and the kerbside recycling communication process. He said the Federated Farmers suggestions included in its submissions fell outside the process of the Gore electoral boundaries. A separate conversation and separate process would be required if the Council was to explore the idea.

In response to Cr Beale, His Worship said the Council would contact the petitioners once the process was completed to ensure they understood the reasons for the process and the differences between rating and electoral boundaries.

### **Sally McIntyre**

His Worship said the error around population figures was regretted and that had been acknowledged by the Chief Executive in his report and letter written to the submitters. It did not substantially change

the thrust of the Council's proposal or the intent of the submitters overall as to what their wishes were.

In response to Cr Highsted asking if further consultation was required, the Chief Executive said the issue was whether the mistake had been so material that other people could submit on it, and whether they should now be allowed to participate in the process. His view was that the needs had been addressed and the Council's overarching philosophy had not changed.

In response to His Worship the Chief Executive said there was not any legal requirement to re-consult.

His Worship said the message he was getting was that the status quo was palatable to everyone.

**Federated Farmers, Eastern Southland group**

His Worship said although the points raised did require debate, the meeting was not the correct forum. He did not want to see the matter of boundary adjustments lost as further discussion with Federated Farmers was required. He had raised the idea that current boundaries in Southland might need to be modified to protect the communities of interest.

Cr Gover agreed but thought the initiating should come from the rural areas.

His Worship agreed and said that was why consultation was required.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the Council explore the idea of a discussion with Federated Farmers around boundary adjustments in the future.**

**2012/01**

Cr Bolger said discussion needed to be initiated from outside the District. The Council did not want to get in a fight with its neighbours.

Cr Grant said the submission was strange in that it was not on the relevant subject.

**Federated Farmers, Southland**

Cr Beale suggested moving meshblock 305/4900 and 305/5000 into the Waikaka ward. It would bring Waikaka up to 1500 residents and also bring the two wards to within 30.

His Worship said geographically, there would not be much difference. It was a common sense approach to the challenge before the Council.

The Chief Executive said the change would be mean residents would move from rural to rural, rather than the initial idea of rural to urban. It would be practical to notify the residents affected in the proposal. If there were objections, the Council could initiate a consultation process, or it could comfortably go ahead and make decisions.

Cr Beale said the change would put all of Pukerau in the one electorate.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Chief Executive said it was a statute requirement to have an even balance of population per elected member with a tolerance of + or - 10%. He would construct a letter to residents that would include all salient facts.

Cr Gover suggested that it be noted in the correspondence that Cr Watt had not attended the meeting.

**RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Grant, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT following the consideration of submissions received, the Council amend its representation proposal on the basis that the current electoral sub-division of the Gore District will continue, subject to an expansion of the Waikaka ward to incorporate meshblocks 309/4000 and 305/5000 and a corresponding reduction of the Kaiwera-Waimumu ward to bring about fair representation in accordance with section 19(V) of the Local Electoral Act 2001,**

**AND THAT an explanatory letter be sent to the residents of meshblocks 309/4000 and 305/5000 advising of the proposal and seeking comment.**

2012/02

The meeting closed at 3.49 pm.