

CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report on Proceedings of an informal meeting of representatives of the indicative Central Otago District Council held in the Alexandra Borough Council Chambers at 2.00 p.m. on MONDAY, 19 DECEMBER 1988.

PRESENT:

Mrs E. Davidson, Messrs. L. Tombs, R. Cunningham (Roxburgh Borough Council), F. Evans, C. Mulholland (Naseby Borough Council), J. Crutchley, K. O'Malley, J. Morrison (Maniototo County Council), D. Butcher, N. Hucklebridge, S. Grant (Cromwell Borough Council), R. Davidson, W. McIntosh, G. Smith (Vincent County Council), P. Herbert, P. Kelly, D. Pannett, B. Coleman (Tuapeka County Council), R. Poole, R. Yardley, J. McKerchar (Alexandra Borough Council).

IN ATTENDANCE:

R.B. McNeil (Secretary).

WELCOME TO MEMBERS:

The Mayor of Alexandra, Mr Russell Poole extended a brief welcome to the representatives to the meeting and said that he hoped that the discussions that would take place would be most fruitful and would obviously be the first of many that would be required to establish the new Central Otago District Council. He advised that the Alexandra Borough Council were prepared to provide administration services for the purpose of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

R. YARDLEY
F. EVANS

MOVED
SECONDED

THAT the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr Bob McNeil be appointed to act as Secretary.

MOTION CARRIED

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

The Secretary then called for nominations for the position of a Chairman to preside over the proceedings.

Mr Butcher spoke out against this proposal and

The Chairman took the opportunity to invite those representatives who were associated with the transition proceeding in South Otago to inform the meeting of the progress that was being made there.

Peter Herbert said that to date three meetings had been held and inspections had been made of the facilities available at the various authorities depots, such as offices, machinery and plant.

The position of District Manager had been advertised and a Transition Committee budget of \$35,000 set. He said that Tuapeka was being severed to the extent that 1/3 of the population/capital base would be in the Central Otago District Council, and 2/3 going to South Otago. In establishing the boundaries they had attempted to follow the natural watersheds and Beaumont Station boundaries were being transferred to the Central Otago District, which his County considered was the best move for all concerned.

One matter of concern to his Council was the fact that they would be facing double expenditure for two Transition Committee representation for the next nine months, which would be a substantial charge as a result of his authority being severed. There was also the cost of splitting the mesh blocks and establishing their inventory of assets and liabilities associated with the severance.

Brian Coleman said that following the Inaugural meeting of the South Otago authorities on 4 November, negotiations had been extremely good and there was excellent dialogue between members.

The officers had held separate meetings to discuss administration matters and this was also proceeding very well.

The Chairman and Deputy had been appointed, standing orders adopted with Secretarial services being provided by the Bruce District Council.

He said that the basis for the apportionment of costs had been decided on and a two year protection clause for the staff established. It was important that the staff be kept informed of the progress of the Transition Committee and of their future, to maintain a high standard of morale.

Meetings were being held fortnightly, with the meetings being rotated around each authority to enable an inspection of the facilities to be made.

He said that the conditions of appointment for the General Manager had been established by using a

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County's contract of employment document as a basis with it being updated by the officers and then revamped at a Transition Committee meeting. The contract of service had then been sent to the National Transition Committee for their comment.

With regard to the question of the appointment of consultants to the Transition Committee, the meeting was advised that this had been considered by the South Otago District and while some representatives had supported the move, it was rejected by the majority.

A general discussion was then held on the benefit of the appointment of consultants to the future Transition Committee and it was suggested that officers could investigate the ability of consultants and that a short list be drawn up before the next meeting.

Mr Davidson asked the meeting how the costs of the Transition Committee would be assessed and said that he believed that the Committee's membership appeared unbalanced.

It was recommended that the officers consider alternative cost sharing methods and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Land value and capital value rating was then discussed and it was noted that both forms of rating were being used by authorities in Central Otago. It was suggested that it may be appropriate to review this and consider the benefits which could be gained from the capital value rating from hydro electric schemes.

Jack McKerchar pointed out that a new "blue book" on Local Government funding which had been received on the day of the meeting, indicated that this matter could be resolved nationally and that the Government could amend the legislation if capital value rating was adopted in an attempt to gain increased revenue from state owned enterprises.

Peter Herbert asked that close liaison be maintained with his County Clerk in respect to any matters which the Committee may be considering in the future which affected the severance of his County, to enable a smooth transition to take place for his area.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

D. BUTCHER
N. HUCKLEBRIDGE

MOVED
SECONDED

THAT the informal Committee meet again on Wednesday, 25 January 1989 at 2.00 p.m., to consider any other information that may come to hand and that if officers consider it necessary, for them to meet and put together the matters raised for the benefit of the new Transition Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

The Meeting concluded at 4.00 p.m.