

**DRAFT MINUTES OF Boyle Municipal District HELD IN THE Boyle Municipal Office - Boyle MD Offices
ON Wednesday, 18th October, 2023 AT 2.30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Liam Callaghan **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr T. Crosby, Cllr V. Byrne and Cllr M. Mulligan.

OFFICIALS: Greg O'Donnell, A/Director of Services
Gerardine Lafferty, Staff Officer
Colm Kelly, Executive Engineer

Apologies: Cllr J. Murphy.

58.23 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

59.23 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BOYLE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

Mr. Sean Mullarkey, Head of Finance presented the Chief Executive Report regarding the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) and the Draft Budgetary Plans for Boyle Municipal District 2024. Mr. Mullarkey, Head of Finance outlined that the total proposed General Municipal Allocation (GMA) for 2024 for the Boyle Municipal District Area was €985,000.

The decision taken at the Plenary meeting on the 26th September, 2022 to vary the LPT basic rate upwards by 15% allowed for the following items to be included in the GMA for 2023 & 2024.

- €255,000 of Community & Enterprise funding for distribution by members
- €187,200 for street cleaning
- €30,000 of funding has been allocated to the emergency graveyard budget
- €75,000 has been allocated to graveyard grants
- €72,000 in funding has been granted to assist Tidy Towns programmes.
- Town Team funding of €12,500 for each of the six town teams.

Mr. Mullarkey, Head of Finance outlined the rationale for allocating funds. The model used in 2023 for apportioning roads expenditure is (33.3% Population, 33.3% km Roads, 33.3% Condition) has again been applied in 2024.

Mr. Mullarkey clarified that for the 2023 GMA Budget, Boyle's allocation was €948,600, however the members agreed at the 2022 Plenary Budget Meeting to allocate €25,000 to Castlerea Fire Brigade and €1,667 for development of Business Network, leaving a new budget balance for 2023 of €921,933. The purpose of the draft budgetary plan meeting is to provide each municipal district an opportunity to allocate its proportion of the General Municipal Allocation according to its priorities.

The following budget changes for 2024 were noted:

- Taking in Charge: €10,000/€0 2023

- Public Lighting: €16,800/as for 2023
- Community Development: €85,000/€73,333 2023
- Town Teams: €37,500/ €30,000 2023
- Illegal Dumping: €7,500/€5,000 2023
- Street Cleaning: €70,200/ €68,700 2023
- Voluntary Graveyard Grant: €25,000/€21,600 2023
- Burial Grounds Emergency Repairs: €10,000/€6,000 2023

All of the elected members thanked Mr. Sean Mullarkey, Head of Finance for the comprehensive budget and welcomed the budget as presented.

Cllr Liam Callaghan queried the budget reallocation of €25,000 to Castlerea Fire Brigade from Boyle MD 2023's budget.

Mr. Sean Mullarkey clarified that at the Plenary Budget meeting, it was agreed to reallocate €8,333 per Operational Area and as Boyle has 3 Operational Areas, Boyle's contribution totaled €25,000.

Cllr. John Cummins queried the €25,000 allocated to Castlerea Fire Brigade at last year's meeting and was this money spent and if not, could it be taken back. Members had understood the allocation was per Municipal District and not Operational Area.

Mr. Sean Mullarkey stated that the €25,000 is resting in a Capital Account and this funding rolls over year to year. This was agreed at the full Council meeting in 2022 and the decision cannot be reversed.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor L Callaghan
SECONDED by Councillor V. Byrne

It was **AGREED** that any proposed amendments to the budget would be reviewed by the MD Coordinator and Area Engineers to assess the impact of such an amendment on MD budget/projects.

Cllr. Tom Crosby queried the allocation of €7,500 for Illegal Dumping stating that such an amount is totally inadequate for the extent of illegal dumping problems across the Municipal District. Budget is too restrictive to tackle the situation. Illegal dumping is a blight on the countryside and impacts on tourism & fishery. Penalties applied are ineffective and that laws on illegal dumping should be changed.

Cllr. Valerie Byrne asked how is household rubbish collection monitored and if those without bins are asked to produce receipts to prove rubbish brought to dump.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell confirmed that disposal of household rubbish is checked by Roscommon Co Council. Roscommon Co. Council has access to bin collection data linked to eircode. This information can be used to target those who don't have a bin collection service.

Cllr. Michael Mulligan stated that illegal dumping is a serious issue in forestry and the Ballaghaderreen Area. The cleanup is left to volunteers who collect lorry loads of rubbish around the town. He also asked if results of survey done in Ballaghaderreen on bin collection can be made available.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell stated that the Council follows up with private land owners such as Coillte where illegal dumping takes place on their land. Roscommon Co Council has a role in following up on illegal dumping. CCTV likely in 2024 but use of it is very restrictive

Mr. Greg O'Donnell is to check with Environment Section for the result of this survey. There will be follow up with Coillte if there is illegal dumping on their land.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor T Crosby
SECONDED by Councillor J. Cummins

It was **AGREED** to raise the issue of budget allocation for Illegal Dumping at the next Plenary Meeting.

Cllr. Liam Callaghan complimented Roscommon Co Council on the speed limit signs in towns and villages. Signs are worthwhile in light of number of serious accidents on roads.

Cllr. John Cummins stated that along with street cleaning, there is the maintenance of the newly opened An Rioga in Boyle that will require continuing maintenance and cleaning. Area Office would need resources/funds to cover costs.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell agreed that additional resources - under the Public Realm Team – should be available.

Mr. Sean Mullarkey agreed that Public Realm Team funding should include maintenance of such a facility like An Rioga.

Cllr. Valerie Byrne queried Public Lighting funding and that some estates are still waiting on lighting. Public lights being replaced by LED lights and contracted to Electric Skyline through Mayo Co. Council but asked what is the situation regarding new lighting as new lighting is needed in her area.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor V. Byrne
SECONDED by Councillor T. Crosby

It was **AGREED** that funding be made available for the Connacht Fleadh 2024 being held in Strokestown and that the application for funding would be favourably received.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor L. Callaghan
SECONDED by Councillor J. Cummins

It was **AGREED** that a list of estates in Boyle and their status regarding Taking in Charge be presented at next Boyle MD meeting.

Cllr. L Callaghan also requested that for next meeting, there would be an update on verge trimming costs and how much has been completed.

N5 update

Mr. Greg O'Donnell stated that the budget and project have been approved. The project is still on track and hope to award contract before end of 2023.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor T. Crosby
SECONDED by Councillor John Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan for Boyle Municipal District 2024 as presented.

60.23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Cllr. Valerie Byrne expressed get well wishes on behalf of members to Annette Donlon, Environment Section, and wished her a speedy recovery.

(b) Roundabout at Abbeytown (Nordstrom)

Cllr John Cummins stated that this roundabout is causing difficulties. It's the route to the football pitch, school, nursing home, houses, and access to Nordstrom facility with 250 employees, etc. High volume of traffic all year round. Road markings on button roundabout have worn away and no longer visible. Signage on approach to roundabout needs to be looked at.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell informed meeting that this section of road is to have an overlay and road will be relined. He also stated that the installation of a pedestrian crossing could be considered.

Mr. Colm Kelly, Area Engineer, stated that works are scheduled to take place on this section during the mid-term break at end of month and road markings and button roundabout would be completed after this. He also agreed to look at the signage, etc.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor J. Cummins
SECONDED by Councillor V. Byrne

It was **AGREED** to request larger signs be installed to indicate approach to button roundabout and that pedestrian crossing be installed.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell stated that if signage not adequate then Roscommon Co. Council can put signage in place. However, if current signage is adequate for urban level traffic in a 50Km/h area, larger signage should not be needed plus detracts from the aesthetic of the area.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell stated that the MD will look at a pelican/push button pedestrian crossing options.

(c) Tarmonbarry Village: Road very dangerous – is there a date for this to be sorted?

Mr. Greg O'Donnell said he will follow up with Municipal District Coordinator.

(d) Active Travel: Tarmonbarry - Rooskey

Mr. Greg O'Donnell stated that money for feasibility studies reduced and more focused on larger urban centres like Ballaghaderreen.

Mr. Greg O'Donnell stated that there will be an update at the next meeting in November.

Cllr. V. Byrne stated that Active Travel was meant for smaller towns and villages and the refocusing on larger towns is unfair. She has discussed this with Minister Humphries.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Friday, 24th November, 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are

Confirmed and Signed:

Ivor Kilcline

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned