



WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL

To Avoid Delay when
Replying or Telephoning

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MINUTES OF THE WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL EXTRA - ORDINARY MEETING HELD THURSDAY, 11 AUGUST 2011 COMMENCING AT 8.00 AM

9 August 2011

«Name»

«Title»

Dear «Intro»

NOTICE is hereby given that an **EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF WEDDIN** will be held in the Council Chambers, Grenfell on **THURSDAY NEXT 11 AUGUST 2011**, commencing at **8.00 AM** and your attendance is requested please.

Yours faithfully

T V LOBB
GENERAL MANAGER

BUSINESS: To discuss and determine medical matters.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Report by General Manager
4. Closed Council
5. Closure

PRESENT: The Mayor Clr M A Simpson in the Chair, Clrs G B Halls, J C Niven, D W Hughes, N W Hughes, R W Atchison, C M Lobb, M R Crutcher, B R Hinde and G McClelland.
General Manager (T Lobb), Director Corporate Services (G Carroll), Director Engineering (W Twohill) and Director Environmental Services (S Wilson).

APOLOGIES: Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO EXTRA - ORDINARY MEETING – 11 AUGUST 2011

9 August 2011

The Mayor and Councillors
Weddin Shire Council
GRENFELL NSW 2810

Dear Councillors

I wish to report as follows:

1. Incentives for Doctors

A report on incentives is included in the Closed Council section.

For Information

Noted

2. Ochre Health

The latest advice from the Area Health Service was that representatives had met with Ochre Health and a firm proposal for Grenfell had been requested.

No further information is available at the moment, but any late advice will be reported to the meeting.

For Information

Noted

3. Prospective Overseas Doctor

As previously reported, the Area Health Service has located an overseas – based doctor who is interested in relocating to Australia, and to Grenfell. Immigration and registration applications are already in hand, and a teleconference with the doctor has been organised for Wednesday 10 August.

Chair of the Weddin Health Council Peter Moffitt and the General Manager have been invited to participate in this teleconference and it is hoped to clarify many unknowns including:-

- business arrangements for the surgery,
- the need for sponsorship,
- payment of fares.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO EXTRA - ORDINARY MEETING – 11 AUGUST 2011

Council has already agreed to pay \$10,000 towards the cost of the recruitment agency.

Further information may be available at the meeting.

For Information

Noted

4. Prospective Part-Time Doctor

As reported to Council's July Meeting, a recent advertising campaign attracted one expression of interest from a female doctor on the South Coast. However the doctor is only seeking part-time work and does not want to manage the surgery, which means that Council would have to employ the doctor and provide all staff, expendables and accounting, for an unknown income from Medicare.

A "Comparison of Options for Engagement of Doctor" was attached to my report item 1 for Council's May 2011 meeting. The estimated cost of a full time employee doctor was \$562,000, so a part time doctor working three days per week is estimated to cost \$340,000 by proportion. This cost would be reduced by income from Medicare which would depend upon the number of patients seen. Advice received is that the net shortfall could vary from nil to \$100,000 per annum, but for budgeting purposes a shortfall of \$50,000 per annum seems reasonable at this stage.

If agreement can be reached, the town would gain a female doctor who could be available relatively soon. She would be a valuable resource even if a second full time doctor is appointed.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that negotiations with the prospective part-time doctor continue, with operational funding to be sourced from the Local Development Assistance reserve in 2011/2012.

044 **RESOLVED:** Clr Crutcher and Clr Atchison that urgent negotiations with the prospective part-time doctor continue, with operational funding to be sourced from the Local Development Assistance reserve in 2011/2012.

5. Burrangong Street Surgery, P2.12.9/H1.1.2

The Burrangong Street surgery was vacated by Dr Varejka in December 2010 and all furnishings and fittings were removed. Negotiations are in hand to purchase the PABX for the telephone system.

Based on advice from the Division of General Practice, the estimated cost of furnishing and equipping the practice is as follows:-

Medical equipment (shared)	\$24,410
Medical equipment and furniture (1 surgery)	\$14,230
Office/waiting room	\$4,000
Computing and telephone systems (2 surgeries)	\$33,710
Total	<u>\$76,350</u>

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO EXTRA - ORDINARY MEETING – 11 AUGUST 2011

These items were all included in the unsuccessful grant application for the medical centre and can be re-allocated for that purpose if and when required. However their prior purchase will mean that they will have to be funded by Council, probably from the reserve for “Future Projects”.

There is also a need for limited upgrading works at the premises, including reverse cycle air conditioning and minor trades work. The estimated cost of this work is \$22,500 which can be funded from an existing reserve for upgrading the premises.

These expenditures will be required for the first doctor, which could be very soon if agreement is reached with the part-time doctor. Failing this there is a lead time of five to six months before the overseas doctor is expected.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:-

- i) the premises be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$22,500, to be funded from reserves, and;
- ii) furnishings and equipment be purchased and installed at an estimated cost of \$76,350, to be funded from the reserve for Future Projects.

045 RESOLVED: Clr McClelland and Clr N Hughes that:-

- i) the premises be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$22,500, to be funded from reserves, and;
- ii) furnishings and equipment be purchased and installed at an estimated cost of \$76,350, to be funded from the reserve for Future Projects.

6. Accommodation for Part-Time Doctor, H1.1.2

If agreement is reached with the part-time doctor, there will be a need to find accommodation for perhaps four nights through the week. This requirement does not seem to justify purchasing a house if other arrangements can be made.

It is proposed to initially investigate the availability of rental premises including local accommodation houses which may be interested in a longer term tenancy excluding weekends.

At this stage this matter is subject to ongoing negotiation.

For Information

Noted

7. Accommodation for Full-Time Doctor, H1.1.2/P2.

A report on options for accommodation is included in the Closed Council section.

For Information

Noted

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO EXTRA - ORDINARY MEETING – 11 AUGUST 2011

8. Budgeting

The appointment of one or two new doctors will have a significant effect on Council's budget and future programmes. The following report attempts to quantify this effect.

Capital Works

Upgrade surgery	\$22,500	Reserves
Purchase equipment etc	\$76,350	Reserves
Provide dwelling	\$300,000	Reserves
Purchase furniture, etc	<u>\$20,000</u>	Reserves
Total	\$418,850	

Operational Costs (employee doctors)

Incentives (average)	\$15,000	
Recruitment	\$10,000	Year 1 only
Fares	NK	Year 1 only
Shortfall (f/t GP)	\$50,000	} Nil for both
Shortfall (p/t GP)	\$50,000	
Accommodation (p/t GP)	\$10,000	

On this basis the estimated annual cost for a full-time employee doctor is approximately \$65,000 with an additional amount in Year 1. The total funds available for Category B projects this year was \$78,000.

For Information

Noted

RECOMMENDATION: That Council form a Closed Council to consider the items listed below,

AND THAT the Press and the public be excluded from the Meeting of the Closed Council because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, as stated below:

Note: A council, or a committee of a council, may allow members of the public to make representation to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

046 **RESOLVED:** Clr Atchison and Clr N Hughes that Council form a Closed Council to consider the items listed below, AND THAT the Press and the public be excluded from the Meeting of the Closed Council because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

REPORT FROM CLOSED COUNCIL

The Mayor read out the following resolutions from the Closed Council:

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Incentives for Doctors

RESOLVED: that the agreed incentives be confirmed for initial negotiations, and they be funded from the reserve for Local Development Assistance.

2. Accommodation for Full-Time Doctor, H1.1.2/P2.12.14

RESOLVED: that:-

- i) a vacant block (to be determined) be purchased in Lawson Estate at a cost of up to \$48,000,
- ii) plans and specifications be prepared for a new four bedroom dwelling,
- iii) tenders be invited for the new dwelling.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08 am

Taken as read and confirmed as a true record this day 19 August 2011.

.....General Manager.....Mayor