

**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COONAMBLE SHIRE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE SHIRE CHAMBER, COONAMBLE ON MONDAY, 25TH
OCTOBER, 2010 COMMENCING AT 12 NOON.**

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PRESENT: Cr Tim Horan, Mayor, in the Chair, with Crs. J. Canham, T. Cullen, B. O'Brien, M. Webb and D. Schieb.
Also present was Mrs Moorhouse (Secretary)

APOLOGY

8794 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Horan and Webb that an apology for non attendance be accepted from Cr Allan Karanouh.

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

*Interview for Position of General Manager
Development of Strategy on Law & Order Issues
Meeting with Superintendent Bob Noble
Evaluation of Discussions – Law & Order/Crime*

CLOSED SESSION

8795 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Cullen that Council resolve into Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A of the Local Government Act 1993 section (2) (a) "*personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors)*".

8796 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs O'Brien and Cullen that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

INTERVIEW FOR POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER

The Mayor informed Council that Mr Rick Warren has been called for interview following his application for the General Manager's position. Cr Horan handed each Councillor a list of questions to be asked at the interview. He thanked Cr O'Brien who had input into preparation of the questions and asked whether Councillors had any suggestions prior to Mr Warren being called to the meeting.

Councillors indicated they were happy with the questions and agreed they should be asked from the Chair, noting individual councillors may ask questions throughout the interview process.

At this juncture, Mr Rick Warren was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Warren handed to Councillors a portfolio containing original documentation of his qualifications as stated in the job application.

The interview proceeded following which the Mayor thanked Mr Warren, prior to his leaving the meeting..

8797 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council resume Open Meeting.

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8798 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. Webb and O'Brien that Council adopt the recommendations from Closed Session, as set out hereunder:

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that Council offer the position of General Manager to Mr Rick Warren, subject to satisfactory results of screening checks to be carried out in accordance with Council policy, noting the timeframe to assume the position will be negotiated depending on the retirement of the incumbent (viz late 2010/early 2011) and the remuneration package offered is \$165,000.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that authority be given to call applications for the position of Director of Corporate Services.

At this juncture, the meeting adjourned for a short break. Upon resumption, the General Manager, Mr Griffiths and the Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Warren were also in attendance.

DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY ON LAW & ORDER ISSUES

The Mayor reminded Council that Supt Bob Noble would shortly be arriving and Council should have a strategy outlining its concerns on incidents of crime. The following topics were tagged:

- repeat juvenile offenders
- lack of police presence
- limited staffing – why are officers from Coonamble relieving in Walgett
- ineffective leadership – senior officer
- lack of response to calls – numerous complaints from community that police are not responding to reports of crime.

The Mayor said it is important that Supt Noble know Council felt obliged to arrange today's meeting, as it has the role of acting on behalf of and representing the community and, because so many complaints are being lodged with Council and individual Councillors, it has to take a proactive approach.

The General Manager said statistics show the State average on B&E down, but this area's stats are up 44%. He asked why and suggested that heavier sentencing may be a deterrent. The General Manager also referred to complaints concerning noise and offensive behaviour at parties held regularly throughout the town.

The Mayor said from discussions he has had with victims of crime, they are made to feel like the offenders – he said this should not be the case. He also referred to significant funds spent on CCTV cameras as well as making a contribution to the police for a camera to be used jointly with Walgett.

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MEETING WITH SUPERINTENDENT BOB NOBLE

At this juncture, 1.55pm, Superintendent Bob Noble, accompanied by his Secretary, were welcomed to the meeting.

The General Manager informed the Superintendent he has been approached by a group who, for want of a better description, are keen to start a vigilante group "to sort things out". He said this is just one incident highlighting the level of unrest within the community brought about by inaction of local policing.

He said people know the perpetrators in most incidents and victims, as well as other community members, become more frustrated when told nothing can be done. He also referred to funding provided for the CCTV cameras and said that Council staff is being asked to extract the data. The General Manager said local police have advised the Station did not have correct equipment for this task, however advice to the contrary was received from the suppliers.

Supt Noble said surely this would be a training issue and he would follow up at the local level.

At this juncture a deputation of four people from Gulargambone arrived at the meeting. The Mayor decided to move to Closed Session to continue the discussion with Superintendent Noble.

CLOSED SESSION

8799 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that Council resolve to Closed Session in accordance with Section 10A of the Local Government Act 1993, clause (2) (e) "*information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law*"

8800 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and Canham that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

RESUME OPEN MEETING

8801 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Webb and O'Brien that Council resume Open Meeting.

At this juncture, the deputation, comprising Messrs. Greg O'Brien, John Walker, Paul Fisher and Geoff Taylor, was invited to the meeting. Mr Paul Fisher thanked the Mayor and the Superintendent for the opportunity to attend the meeting to put forward concerns about the current level of crime.

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Mr John Walker referred to instances where the public endeavours to assist police, however when information is offered they will not listen. The deputation referred to the resignation of the Sergeant from Gulargambone - Supt Noble said that position would be filled and it was hoped to have a second officer working there, in conjunction with Coonamble, in the future.

Mr Ferguson referred to the CCTV cameras which provide the identity of offenders – Supt Noble said it was very rarely evidence that would be accepted by Court and agreed that there seem to be inequities in the law which could be taken up with the Attorney General. Supt Noble said that if anyone has a complaint or evidence that police are not doing their job they should let him know and he will address issues as a priority. He said that the police will continue to work with Council.

Superintendent Noble thanked Council for the opportunity to have this meeting and he left the Council Chamber along with members of the deputation.

The meeting adjourned for a short break – the Mayor informed Mr Warren that Council decided to offer him the position of General Manager. Mr Warren thanked Councillors for their confidence and looked forward to taking up the role.

EVALUATION OF DISCUSSIONS – LAW & ORDER/CRIME

Upon resumption of the meeting Council continued its discussion on law and order issues and incidents of crime. In an open forum the following suggestions were put forward:

- What more can Council do?
- Media will continue to report incidents – surely that publicity in that avenue will be noted.
- Community members should inform our Local Member, Kevin Humphries
- Advise victims of crime to ring Walgett (Supt Noble), the Local Member or both.

8802 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs. O'Brien and Webb that Council support the application to have a Detective position attached to the Coonamble Station and further investigation be undertaken of crime figures for this area.

The Mayor suggested that because Council is overloaded with requests to assist in law and order matters a press release be prepared encouraging people to continue to report incidents of crime. He said that if community members feel they are not being properly addressed, they should contact Supt Noble to voice their experiences. Cr Horan also referred to the number of juvenile re-offenders and said it should be stressed that parents take responsibility for their children.

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8803 RESOLVED on the motion of Crs Schieb and Webb that a media release be prepared urging all victims of crime and those experiencing severe inconvenience by the actions of others to contact police as soon as possible and, if a response is not forthcoming within an acceptable time-frame, contact the Local Area Commander direct, the Duty Officer in Walgett or Kevin Humphries, the Local Member for Barwon **AND FURTHER** that, in the case of juvenile offenders, pointing out that parents must take their responsibilities seriously and make a greater effort to control their children.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

These Pages (Page 1/4685 to 5/4689) were confirmed on the day
of **November** 2010 and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the
extraordinary meeting of Coonamble Shire Council held on 25 October 2010.

MAYOR