

Minutes of NZ Chambers of Commerce Northland  
meeting of The Executive Board  
held 4.00pm 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015

The President welcomed the Board

**PRESENT:** Tony Shi, Murray Broadbelt, Laura Burns, Cr Paul Dimery, Wayne Roycroft, Danny Douglas, Paul Dunn, Jeremy Tauri, Richard Booth, Richard Cranenburgh, Vince Cocurullo, Tim Robinson, Terry Sage, Ryan Welsh, Janette Dobbs, Tony Collins.

**APOLOGIES:** Virginia Craig, Cr Tricia Cutforth **Moved/Seconded**  
Laura/Vince

**LATE ARRIVALS:** Rob Meadows (4.10pm)

**EARLY LEAVERS:**

**PREVIOUS** **Moved/Seconded**  
**MINUTES:** Murray/Laura

**FINANCE REPORT:** Danny spoke to the Finance KPI report

- Budget is now included on KPI report
- Main difference is subscriptions which are holding up well
- Budget is on a par but with slight timing differences balancing out in YTD
- Tony gave overview of the new photocopier sponsor – Ricoh Northland owned by Cameron and Marcela Thompson

**Moved/Seconded**  
Paul/Tim

**CEO REPORT:** **1. Regional Business Partnership**  
Tony advised that the current Regional Business Partnership contact of 3 years ends in June.

Had thought major changes were going to come through from NZTE but their review over the last 3 months has assured them that the current processes are working. Chamber will be bidding with Northland INC for a 5 year contract going forward.

\$500K has been given in capability vouchers over the last 12 months to Northland businesses – this doesn't include Callaghan Innovation grants awarded.

Business Mentors NZ scheme may be incorporated into the RBP program.

There may be a possibility for the Chamber to receive more funding through the next contract due to the amount of work which is carried out by the Chamber.

**2. Meeting with Kelvin Davis**

Will cover this under Ease of Business

**3. Meeting with Jan Frances – Mayors Taskforce for jobs**

The Chamber has a part to play as facilitator with employers

**Moved/Seconded**

Murray/Laura

Rob Meadows arrived

**TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS:**

**Ease of Business:**

- Meeting with Kelvin Davis discussed the following
  - EoB initiative
  - Business attractants to Northland
  - Education
  - Hundertwasser and Cruise ships
  - Treaty settlements
- Meeting with Jan Frances – identified EoB as an opportunity to help make a business environment where employers take on you young people.
- ATEED is in the process of setting up a pledge re the above.

**A/P: This is to be incorporated into the proposed Northland promise.**

- Chamber has made submissions around EoB to WDC, FNDC and NRC

- Discussion about work experience and legality around unpaid work.

**A/P: Tony to meet with Ryan to get EoB finalised.**

**Advocacy:**

Tony gave overview

- Radio Live slot – discussion around budget being mainly business as usual highlighting the following points
  - UFB to receive more funding for fibre
  - Maori land ownership – changes to make more productive
- Use of Northport – should be based on strategy for NZ
- WDC referendum – only 25% voter turnout to date. Were expecting 40% which is comparable to Local Body elections.
- Regional Divide – opportunity to put pressure on central and local government to look at ways of reducing divide. Leverage off bad publicity.

**Moved/Seconded**

Tim/Laura

**COUNCIL**

**REPRESENTATIVE**

**REPORTS:**

**WDC: in Cr Tricia Cutforth’s absence Tony passed on some of her comments**

- Working on LTP at present and haven’t got past the first major issue which is commercial rating - A UAGC can be applied per rating unit or per separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a property. Applying the rate on a SUIP basis means that properties that consist of multiple apartments on a single property title, which are classed as a single rating unit, will be charged a UAGC for each apartment. The council will apply the UAGC on a per SUIP basis as this better aligns the rate with the use of services.

**NRC: Cr Paul Dimery highlighted the following**

- LTP will be finalised in next few days
- Health – the funding of NEST has brought in lots of submissions – not a local government responsibility.
- Regional Transport Plan \$1.4b to be spent over the next 10years.
- In-depth conversations about best utilisation of port.
- Investment in strategic land being discussed.

**KDC: Richard Booth highlighted the following**

- The district has been given another year under commission, which will give time to tidy up legal issues facing the council. Local council to be elected at the next Local Body elections in October 2015. The commission is there to provide a transition path back to democracy.
- LTP has been finalised
  - 4% rate increase
  - Targeted forestry rate – which received strong opposition, but is still lower than Dairy farmers
- Richard gave an overview of borrowing through LGFA and other banks and despite bad press KDC is looking at paying down debt to \$60m by 2025. Noted that district has 19,000 residents with 13,000 ratepayers.
- The Mangawhai Sewerage scheme is working well although it cost more than it should have.

**GENERAL BUSINESS: No general business**

**Meeting closed: 4.36pm**

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

**President** ..... **Date**.....

**Discussions about Membership and Awards**

Tony gave an overview of the Awards entry process

**A/P: Board members to all provide contacts and names of businesses who would be suitable Awards entrants**