**BALLYMAHON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District**

**held in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams**

**on Thursday 26 October 2023 at 4pm**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**: Councillor Paul Ross

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Councillors – Pat O’Toole, Mark Casey

 Mick Cahill and Gerard Farrell

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Ms. Samantha Healy -Director of Service

 Mr. John McKeon – Head of Finance

**APOLOGIES:** Ms. Claire McDermott, Administrative Officer

**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**: Ms. Claire McNabola

1. **CONSIDERATION OF 2024 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION**

John McKeon, Head of Finance gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the General Municipal Allocation 2024 under the following headings and replied to queries raised –

* Budgetary Process – under Local Government Reform Act 2014
* Local Property Tax Variation – retain rates for 2023 and 2024
* Source of Funding for Municipal District
* Acute Financial Challenges for 2024
* No scope to increase local income
* Lowest valued LPT base in Country, maxed at 15%
* Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis
* Members increased rates for 2023
* Local Election Year 2024
* Largest % population increase in the state
* Downward revaluations for Utility Providers
* New service initiatives only part funded
* Inflationary Pressures
* Ever increasing demands for match funding for Capital Projects
* Uisce Eireann Standard Costs
* Fire Service Costs
* Coats for providing services for Multiple Departments
* Rent Review
* Potential Deficit for 2023
* Recruitment Costs
* General Municipal Allocation 2024 Recommendation - €100,000 to be distributed as follows – Arts Activities – Voluntary Bodies Grants – Special Projects Grants - Tidy Towns Grants – Town Twinning – BCP’s
* Ballymahon GMA have provided funded/committed to funding 61 projects.
* Governance

 **Ballymahon GMA Sub-Service Allocation 2024**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Service Division** | **Sub-Service** | **Allocation 2023** | **Suggested Allocation 2024** | **Increase/Decrease** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Arts Activities**  | **€10,500** | **€12,500** | **€2,000** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Tidy Towns Grants** | **€13,000** | **€13,000** | **0** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Town Twinning Grants** | **€3,000** | **€5,000** | **€2,000** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Voluntary Bodies Grants**  | **€53,500** | **€57,500** | **€4,000** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **Special Projects Grants**  | **€10,000** | **€10,000** | **€500** |
| **Recreation & Amenity** | **BCP’s**  | **€2,000** | **€2,000** | **0** |
| **Balance Unallocated B/F** |  | **€926** | **€926** |  |
| **Grand Total** |  | **€90,000** | **€100,926** | **€10,926** |

On the proposal of Councillor Mick Cahill, seconded by Councillor Gerard the members agreed to reduce the allocation to Voluntary Bodies by €4,000 and allocate €2,000 to Tidy Towns & Special Projects respectfully.

The members also agreed to have allocated the remaining balance of €926 and have it spent prior to the end of the year.

**Next Meeting**

On the proposal on Councillor Paul Ross, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole it was agreed the next meeting would take place on Thursday 7th December.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Claire McNabola**

 **Meetings Administrator**

**Confirmed and adopted at Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting held on the 23 November 2023.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Cathaoirleach**