



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting 19th April 2010, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Carey presided.

Members Present:

Councillors Joseph Bonner, Sirena Campbell, Shane Cassells, Francis Deane, Anne Dillon Gallagher, Regina Doherty, John V Farrelly, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Oliver Fox, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy, Seamus O'Neill, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly.

Apologies:

Councillors Ray Butler, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Eoin Holmes, Catherine Yore.

Officials in Attendance:

County Manager: Tom Dowling

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart.

Meetings Administrator: Bill Sweeney

1.0 Notice of Motion

Submitted by Councillor William Carey:

While recognising and accepting the statutory role of the Courts, Financial Regulator and of the Court appointed Administrators to Quinn Insurance Ltd. Meath County Council sympathises with the situation of the company's employees and now calls on the Administrators to take all action, within their remit, to protect the jobs of the employees.

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting that on 30 March 2010 the Financial Regulator petitioned the High Court to appoint joint provisional administrators to Quinn Insurance Limited. On the 15 April 2010 those appointments were confirmed by the High Court. The administrators are due to present their first report to the High Court on May 20. Separately, the Financial Regulator continues its own investigations into the circumstances surrounding the creation of guarantees.

Both of these issues are issues which should not be discussed or commented on at the meeting.

Councillors were also reminded that they do not enjoy any privilege, limited or otherwise, in the Council Chamber.

The Cathaoirleach formally proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr Farrelly. Cllr Carey stressed that the intention of the motion was to provide constructive help to the Quinn Insurance employees by working with the Administrators to secure employment.

Cllrs expressed support for the motion and Cllr Farrelly proposed that a meeting be sought with the administrators. This proposal was seconded by Cllr B Reilly.

Councillors made the following points in the course of debating the motion:



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1. Significance of the Northern Ireland and UK markets to the Navan operation;
2. The number of Quinn employees from Meath who worked outside the county;
3. Need to secure jobs in the event of sale or restructuring;
4. Cooperation with other local authorities;
5. Develop constructive ways to support employment in all businesses in the county.

The Co Manager replied to the debate by outlining the excellent relationship between Quinn Insurance and the Council. He acknowledged the importance of the meeting in sending a very strong signal of support to the company, its employees and the administrators. He fully accepted the need to monitor the situation closely particularly in the event of a sale of the business. He confirmed that there were ongoing contacts between the Council and Quinn Insurance.

The Director of Economic Development and Innovation stated that the executive would assist in any way possible but he was anxious not to create unrealistic expectations. He was encouraged by the response of staff to their meeting with the Regulator and advised that he would be meeting staff representatives later that day.

The motion was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr Carey seconded by Cllr Farrelly.

The proposal to seek a meeting with the Administrators at an appropriate time was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr Farrelly seconded by Cllr B Reilly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.