



MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 19 December 2019

TIME: 17H00

VENUE: Civic Auditorium, Overstrand Municipal Centre, 1 Harmony Ave, Hermanus

CHAIRMAN: Mr Fanie Prins. No association with HSRA and not a property owner in area. He was invited to chair the meeting. F. Prins credentials approved by Overstrand Municipality.

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: See attendance list attached to minutes. 233 attendees.

Apologies: See apologies list attached to minutes. 25 invitees notified by email that they were unable to attend.

Mr Michael Farr (HSRA SC Chairman) and Mr Errol van Staden (HPP Chairman). HSRA Steering Committee and the HPP Board are represented. M. Bown – Minutes Secretary.

2. WELCOME

Public Meeting Chairman welcomes all the attendees.

3. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Meeting Chairman outlines the Order of Business, stating there will an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentations given by Mr. E. van Staden and Mr. M. Farr respectively.

4. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- a. Inform all attendees of relevant information pertaining to the application;
- b. Discuss the practical implications relating thereto; and
- c. Allow the Hermanus Public Protection (HPP) to present their interim plan for the provision of services until the SRA is successfully established.

5. HERMANUS PUBLIC PROTECTION (HPP) PRESENTATION BY MR ERROL VAN STADEN

E. van Staden presents the current status of HPP. Presentation is available on HPP website: <http://www.hppsecurity.co.za/>



- 17H27 OM Facilities Manager calls a halt to proceedings as auditorium is over maximum capacity (194). E. van Staden requests that people sitting in the aisles and around the sides leave and informs them that another meeting will take place in January 2020. Around 40 attendees leave to comply with the Health and Safety regulations.
- 17H30 HPP Presentation commences. Questions and Answer session. Question and answers listed below.

6. PROPOSED HSRA PRESENTATION BY MR MICHAEL FARR

M.F welcomes and thanks attendees.

M.F states the process followed to establish the Steering Committee and that it is representative of the area.

M.F proceed with presentation on the proposed HSRA. The full presentation is available on the HSRA website:

<https://hermanussra.co.za/notices/>

Key Points Highlighted by M.F:

- The Business Plan will be available on the HSRA website after midnight.
- The HSRA geographical area will be the same as the HPP.
- The HSRA establishment must comply with various National and Municipal legislation. The pertinent legislation for Special Rating Areas is available on the HSRA website.
- M.F relates to his previous experience establishing CIDs in Cape Town and states that successful SRA's are proven to attract investment and offer a safe and secure environment for all. There is also less likelihood of depreciation in property values.
- M.F. confirms that the Business Plan is aligned with the Overstrand Municipality IDP.
- M.F outlines the process for establishing the HSRA, what has been achieved to date and what needs to be achieved to submit the application to the OM by the end of January. M.F further states that there is a 30 day objection period follows the application submission. Should the application be successful, the levy will only be payable in August. M.F. reiterates that the timelines are very tight.
- M.F outlines the findings of the perception survey results. It is highlighted that property owners are concerned about safety in



the area and that Neighbourhood Watches, the HPP and private security are integral to safety in the area.

- M.F states that foot patrols are not effective in residential areas due to the size. Vehicle patrols are the preferred method to respond to and identify crime. Foot patrols are effective in the CBD and along the Cliff Path.
- M.F outlines the cleansing services that will be provided.
- Terry McCarthy (T.McC) (Steering Committee Member) outlines the 5-year budget and reiterates that supplementary safety and cleansing services are the key features of the Business Plan based on the survey outcomes.
- T.McC then outlines the predicted costs to ratepayers and unpacks the calculation of the rates.
- Questions are raised by a number of attendees at this point. The Chairman lets the questioning continue. Questions and answers are listed below.
- M.F continues with presentation highlighting the voting process, voting eligibility.
- M.F ends presentation with what can be done to help and raises an example of a CBD where deterioration in the area led to a 40% decline in property values. States that we must protect our most valuable assets.

7. Question & Answers

A summary of questions and answers follows:

Question	Answer
Questions following the HPP presentation	
Q1. Should the meeting continue following the H&S issue? Is the audience still representative?	E.v.S – The meeting is for information purposes and is not required to be representative.
Q2. Funding for the HPP was unilaterally stopped by the OM, however, the By-law has not yet been repealed. The OM is obligated to continue collecting funds under the CID By-law.	E.v.S – Question is noted and will be investigated and raised with the OM.
Q3. Did our rates bill not decrease when the levy stopped?	E.v.S – the levy was never specified as a line item on the rates bill. The levy ceased on 1 July 2019, at the same time the new rates increase was implemented.



<p>Q4. Why can't the HPP obtain a copy of property owners contact details from the OM. <i>Note: This question is raised by Pat Redford several times.</i></p>	<p>E.v.S – The HPP is not permitted to receive the property owners database. M.F – a joint statement was sent to all property owners in the HSRA. The statement confirmed that HSRA SC and HPP Board have agreed a collaborative partnership against the backdrop of a common goal – ensuring a safe, clean and caring environment that contributes to Hermanus being a highly sought-after investment and tourism destination.</p>
<p>Q5. How effective has the HPP been?</p>	<p>E.v.S – In the past the HPP has communicated poorly with the community about the impact they have. They plan to be more active and has established more online routes to share achievements. ADT now provides more information on activities and metrics are available. Crime is under control in the area and there is a good cooperation between the HPP, law enforcement and other actors. The west side of the Cliff Path had an increase in incidents, more patrollers are now in the area.</p>
<p>Q6. Why can't ADT pay the HPP staff in the interim?</p>	<p>E.v.S - HPP pay ADT to supply staff. ADT do not have the funds to pay the HPP staff in the interim and the staff cannot be transferred. That is why we are appealing for voluntary funding until the SRA can be established.</p>
<p>Questions following M. Farr and T.McC Presentation</p>	
<p>Q1. Is that still 10% on the rate?</p>	<p>T.McC - confirms that the levy is approximately 10.25%. The HSRA states that it does not intend to go higher than 12%, the OM SRA Policy states that it cannot be more than 25%. The HSRA NPC is regulated under the companies act and members have to approve any increase.</p>
<p>Q2. What guarantees are there that the OM will pay the funds over to the SRA?</p>	<p>T.McC – there is legislation in place, that legally obliges the OM to pay the funds directly to the HSRA NPC, however, the OM does have financial oversight to ensure funds are not misspent.</p>
<p>Q3. What percentage of tax payers will contribute to the SRA?</p>	<p>TMcC – a database was provided by the OM with 5501 ratepayers in the defined area. It is mandatory once 50 percent plus 1 ratepayers vote in favour of establishing the SRA.</p>



<p>Q4. An audience member asks for a show of hands to get an idea of how many people support the initiative.</p>	<p>The majority of the audience raises it hands.</p>
<p>Q5. Bob Stanway – The process is in contravention with the SRA By-law and policy. After the public meeting property owners should comment on the Business Plan prior to giving consent. How's it possible to vote at this stage as it is completely opposed to the by-law and policy?</p>	<p>F.P – This is a consent form for the establishment of the SRA. If there are any objections to what is in the business plan, those objections can be put forward. <i>B. Stanway – the by-law states only after the final business plan has been published. There is a step missing here. You cannot vote on a draft business plan. The process will be invalidated and illegal.</i> M.F – the purpose of the public meeting is for people to express their view and if they support or object to the SRA. The Business Plan put forward is regarded by both the HSRA SC and OM as a final business plan. <i>B. Stanway – can I just say that this is illegal.</i> F.P – can we take this offline to resolve.</p>
<p>Q6. I am concerned about the verifying of votes. How will this be controlled, who will audit the votes – independent body?</p>	<p>M.F - There is a voting and verification process in place that the HSRA SC must adhere to, verify details and cross reference. The OM will verify the votes when the application is submitted.</p>
<p>Q7. What new technologies will be introduced?</p>	<p>M.F. – The current CCTV software system will be updated to enhance its facial recognition capabilities, as well as use the LPR system. The CCTV network will be extended to help with crime prevention and convictions across the region.</p>
<p>Q8. How can we help? How will all property owners be notified to vote?</p>	<p>Property owners with an email/ cell details will be sent a link to vote online or download from the website. Direct mail will be sent to property owners who only receive mail. If you would like to volunteer to help collect votes, please let us know.</p>
<p>Q9. Can the consent form be circulated on WhatsApp groups? It seems to be the most pervasive form of communication in the area.</p>	<p>M.F – Yes, a link can be sent via WhatsApp groups to the consent form.</p>
<p>Q10. Will the levy be compulsory?</p>	<p>M.F – yes, if the majority (50%+1) vote in favour, the levy will be mandatory for all ratepayers in the HSRA.</p>
<p>Q11. Is VAT included in the budget?</p>	<p>TMCC – I will investigate and communicate the outcome.</p>
<p>Q12. Does the OM/ Council/ Law Enforcement support this initiative?</p>	<p>M.F – Yes.</p>



Q13. Who will make a provision for bad debts?	M.F – The OM makes a provision for bad debts.
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8. Closing

Chairman thanks all attendees for their participation.

Meeting is closed at 19H17

CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE:  _____

DATE: 21 December 2019