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MINUTES OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd DECEMBER 2020 AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT: His Excellency the Governor, Mr Timothy Foy, OBE
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health,
Dr Ellis Webster
- The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
- The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs,
Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services,
Ms Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers
- The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour,
Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting,
Lands and Physical Planning, Mr Kenneth Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications,
Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes
- The Honourable Minister for Economic Development, Commerce,
Information Technology, Environment and Natural Resources,
Mr Kyle Hodge
- The Honourable Attorney General (acting), Ms Erica Edwards
- Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- IN ATTENDANCE: Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,
Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social
Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson
Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
- ABSENT: The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford

EX MIN 20/529

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 17th December 2020.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Council noted that:

- 1) the Attorney General's Chambers has drafted the regulations to facilitate hotels remitting arrival fees to the Government of Anguilla on behalf of guests and the Hon Deputy Governor will work on progressing this;
- 2) in relation to EX MIN 20/468, responsibility for the administration of unemployment assistance benefit has been transferred to the Ministry of Social Development, although the benefit is funded by the Ministry of Finance;
- 3) in relation to EX MIN 20/488, the Hon Premier and the Attorney General's Chambers continue to work on amendment of the regulations;
- 4) it is anticipated that once approved the Astra Zeneca vaccination may be forwarded to Anguilla tentatively by January. It is necessary to continue the community outreach and marketing campaigns to raise awareness of the vaccine; and
- 5) Covid-19 testing kits have been ordered but owing to worldwide demand there is no timescale for the fulfilment of the order. It is therefore necessary to manage the existing inventory carefully, especially as an increase in arrivals is usually expected in the first quarter of the year. There is another testing machine that can be set up for use in order to increase capacity, as the testing kits are more readily available.

EX MIN 20/530

EX MEM 20/272 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER EXEMPTING THE PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT TAX FOR THE BOXING EVENT HOSTED BY TRANSPHARM SPORTS ON DECEMBER 26TH 2020

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council was asked to consider and approve an exemption from the payment of Public Entertainment Tax for the boxing exhibition to be held by Transpharm on December 26, 2020. Section 7 of the Public Entertainment Tax Act supports exemptions in relation to entertainment which is provided for reasons other than private gain.

Council agreed to make a contribution in support of the event rather than grant the exemption. The sum of the contribution is to be confirmed.

Action: PS, FIN; BD; ACC, GEN; HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 20/531

FINANCIAL UPDATE NOVEMBER YTD

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council deferred this matter.

Action: PS, FIN; BD; ACC, GEN; HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 20/532

2021 WORK PLANS AND BUDGETS FOR STATUTORY BODIES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined the meeting:

PS, Finance, Mrs Kathleen Rogers
Principal Assistant Secretary, Ms Marisa Harding-Hodge

Water Corporation of Anguilla

Council noted that:

- 1) there is an unfunded operating deficit of EC\$900,000 after applying the EC\$1 million subvention included within the MTEFP;
- 2) this is the second deficit budget presented to Council;
- 3) without more detailed information it could not verify whether the revenue estimates and reduction in water production costs were accurate or reasonable;
- 4) the actions required to be taken under Ex Min 20/510 are incomplete, water charges have to be increased to the required level and costs reduced, the budget has to balance or reduce expenditure elsewhere in Government's 2021 estimates and provide an increased subvention; and
- 5) remedial decisions needed to be taken to balance the WCA's budget before the Government's budget was debated in the HOA as the required adjustments were material and could affect whether assent to the Appropriation Act can be given.

Council then agreed that:

- 1) it was not in a position to agree this budget. The Hon Minister for ICUHT shall write to the Board detailing the outstanding matters, which includes detailed revenue projections and confirmation of the underlying assumptions; and
- 2) the Board shall attend a Special Meeting of Executive Council on Monday 28th December at 10.00 am to explain the budget and address the unfunded operating deficits.

Anguilla Air and Sea Ports Authority

Council noted that:

- 1) the unapproved budget contains an unfunded operating deficit of EC\$4.7 million and there was no provision within the MTEFP or 2021 estimates for a subvention to AASPA;
- 2) despite AASPA's difficult financial situation there are still significant increases in staff costs to EC\$9.4 million;
- 3) the Board is responsible for making the recommendations that will make AASPA profitable, such as increasing port fees and introducing stevedoring charges. Reserves should be built in order to maintain infrastructure;
- 4) the actions required to be taken under Ex Min 20/510 are incomplete; and
- 5) remedial decisions needed to be taken to balance the AASPA's budget before the Government's budget was debated in the HOA as the required adjustments were material and could affect whether assent to the Appropriation Act can be given.

Council then agreed that:

- 1) it was not in a position to agree this budget. The Hon Minister for ICUHT shall write to the Board detailing the outstanding matters; and
- 2) the Board shall attend a Special Meeting of Executive Council on Monday 28th December at 10.00 am to explain the budget and address the unfunded operating deficits.

Health Authority of Anguilla

Council noted that the PS Finance, PS Health, Financial Advisor and Principal Assistant Secretary shall meet with the HAA finance team and CEO to discuss the provisioning for bad debts.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC GEN; MINS OF GOV'T
