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MINUTES OF THE 75TH MEETING OF THE TENTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

PRESENT: His Excellency The Governor, Mr Alistair Harrison

The Honourable Hubert Hughes, Chief Minister and Minister of Finance,
Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism

The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Stanley Reid

The Honourable Edison Baird, Minister of Social Development and Education

The Honourable Walcott Richardson, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Lands,
Physical Planning, Human Rights, Environment and Gender Affairs

The Honourable Evan Gumbs, Minister of Infrastructure, Communications,
Utilities, and Housing

The Honourable Attorney General, Mr James Wood

Mrs Jewelle Fleming, Clerk to Executive Council

IN ATTENDANCE: Hon Jerome Roberts, Adviser to the Hon CM
Dr Wycliffe Fahie, PAS, FIN
Ms Valencia Prentice, Finance Officer
Ms Clara Richardson, Finance Officer
Mrs Gecheal Richardson-Gumbs, CIR
Mr Ved Gandhi, Tax Consultant
Mrs Catherine Firth, HOGO
Dr Aidan Harrigan, PS, EDICT
Mr Lanston Connor, Registrar of Commercial Activities
Mr Gifford Connor, DLS
Mr Vincent Proctor, PPO

EX MIN 11/633

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 74th Meeting held on Thursday 22nd September 2011 and the Minutes of a Special Meeting held on Monday 26th September as amended.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 11/634

EX MIN 11/608 EX MEM 11/239 PURCHASE OF LAND BY SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

Further to EX MIN 11/608 of 22 September 2011, Council agreed that the penultimate paragraph of the minute should be amended to read:-

Council also noted a letter dated 22 September 2011 from Mr Alkins Rogers, Deputy Chairman, Social Security Board with regard to the purchase of land for the Anguilla Social Security Board proposed development plan.

Action: HON MIN, FIN; PS, FIN

OUTSTANDING ITEM FOR EXCO

1. EX MIN 08/761 IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR POLICY
of 11 December 2008

Action: PS, MHA; AG

EX MIN 11/635

EX MEM 11/258 COMMERCIAL REGISTRY ACTIVITIES

EX MIN 11/617 of 22 September 2011 refers.

Hon Jerome Roberts, Adviser to the Hon CM, Dr Aidan Harrigan, PS, EDICT and Mr Lanston Connor, Registrar of Commercial Activities joined the Meeting.

Council:-

- (i) approved the Companies Registry (Amendment) Bill 2011;
- (ii) agreed that the Bill be considered at the next sitting of the House of Assembly.

Action: PS, EDICT; REG, CA

EX MIN 11/636

EX MEM 11/266 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANCY TO RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE CHANGE OF ELECTRICITY STATUTES TO ACCOMMODATE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Council agreed by round robin on 27 September 2011 the terms of reference for a consultancy to recommend amendments to Anguilla's Electricity Legislation to support Renewable Energy integration into the energy mix in Anguilla.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, MICUH; DIR, PU

ORAL MENTION

EX MIN 11/638

BRIEFING BY TAX REFORM WORKING GROUP AND MR VED GANDHI, TAX CONSULTANT

Hon Jerome Roberts, Adviser to the Hon CM remained for discussion. Dr Wycliffe Fahie, PAS, FIN, Ms Valencia Prentice, Finance Officer, Ms Clara Richardson, Finance Officer, Mrs Gecheal Richardson-Gumbs, CIR, Mrs Catherine Firth, HOGO and Mr Ved Gandhi, Tax Consultant joined the Meeting.

The group, led by Dr Wycliffe Fahie, PAS, FIN gave a power point presentation on “Directions for Near Term and Medium Term with regard to tax implementation.

The Hon Chief Minister expressed concern that he had not seen anything in the presentation reflecting economic measures to be taken to diversify the tax base and boost the economy. He pointed out that more emphasis was being placed on fiscal measures. The Chief Minister went on to say that he was not against the implementation of a tax system and was not ruling out the eventuality of same. He supported the modernisation of the tax structure but wanted to ensure that the implementation of taxes would not have a negative effect on Anguilla. He indicated that the introduction of a Value Added Tax (VAT) to replace customs duty was a fair approach.

The Tax Consultant indicated to the Chief Minister that the implementation of taxes would not interfere with whatever strategy the Chief Minister had regarding economic measures he desired to see in place.

Council supported medium term tax reform and had a general agreement that a goods and services tax should be introduced first with the introduction of VAT later on. Council was to make an indicative agreement with regards to the implementation of the tax system.

Council, in its medium term approach, was minded to look at an Education Training Levy by 2012. Council agreed that discussion on all immediate revenue measures should be deferred for discussion when the 2012 budget is being discussed.

Council further agreed that a paper should be submitted to Executive Council from the Ministry of Finance setting out the medium term tax approach, the economic approach and any other desirable measures/strategy to be taken for Council’s consideration by 6 October 2011.

Council thanked the Tax Reform Working Group and Mr Gandhi for all their hard work and commitment.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDICT; PAS, FIN

EX MIN 11/639

ADVERTISEMENT OF POSTS

Council noted that the contracts in respect of Ms Patricia Harding, Registrar of the High Court, Judicial Department and Mrs Kellie Bailey, Parliamentary Counsel, AG's Chambers end in January 2012.

Council agreed that the posts of Registrar, High Court in the Judicial Department and Parliamentary Counsel in the AG's Chambers should be advertised.

Action: PS, PA

EX MIN 11/640

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2011

Council agreed that Ms Fiona Wilkinson, Executive Assistant, Deputy Governor's Office should record the minutes of the Meeting of Executive Council to be held on Saturday 1st October 2011 for the continuation of the Tourism Master Plan Presentation Final Report.

Action: EXCO MEMBERS

EX MIN 11/641

SIGNING OF DOCUMENT

Further to EX MIN 11/607 of 22 September 2011, HE the Governor, in his capacity as Governor-in-Council signed the document appointing Mr Brent Davis as a Commissioner to the Public Utilities Commission.

Action: PS, MICUH

EX MIN 11/642

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

HE the Governor informed Council that he would be off island from 6 – 13 October 2011 on leave.
