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# MINUTES OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 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, Mr Dwight Horsford

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

### EX MIN 20/345 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 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and the Minutes of a Special Meeting of Executive Council held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

## EX MIN 20/346 FINANCIAL STOCKTAKE – JULY YTD

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. PS Finance Mrs Kathleen Rogers and Accountant General Mr Vonlee Harris joined.

Council noted the report on the financial position as at August 19 2020, from the PS Finance and Accountant General. The overall fiscal position remains challenging:

- Recurrent revenue inclusive of April UK financial aid grant payment of EC\$10.7 million was EC\$134.4 million;
- Recurrent expenditure excluding expenditure arrears of EC\$8.9 million was EC\$131.7 million;
- Capital revenue is EC\$0.9 million;
- Capital expenditure is EC\$4.1 million;
- Operating bank account balances are overdrawn by EC\$21.1 million;
- Sinking fund bank balance is EC\$4.0 million although future debt amortisation costs are forecast to exceed this sum;
- PS Finance noted that efforts are being made to obtain tax clearance certificates for property owners wishing to travel to Anguilla, this will assist the Department of Inland Revenue in ensuring that taxes are paid up to date.

Following discussion Council agreed that:

- i. the Supplementary Budget was critical in enabling Ministers to make informed decisions on managing the public finances to the end of the year; and
- ii. within the Supplementary Budget spending would need to be prioritized.

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

## EX MIN 20/347 PLAN AND BUDGET FOR COMPLETING REPATRIATION BY OCTOBER 31 2020

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

Council noted the budget and plan for the completion of the repatriation of Anguillians by October 31 2020, specifically that:

- the pace of repatriation is constrained by the absence of appropriately trained staff to man each facility and NOT the availability of accommodation;
- based on numbers currently registered on the repatriation portal, the repatriation exercise may need to go beyond October 31 2020 and into early November; and
- the repatriation plan as currently configured will require a further EC\$4.4 million to implement over and above that already been spent on this exercise to date.

On the issue of testing Council noted that:

- i. open PCR testing capacity should come on stream by September 12 2020; and
- ii. meanwhile testing could continue using the closed PCR system. The stock of test kits for use with this machine was down to 1000, but a further 3,600 tests (provided by the FCO) are expected to arrive shorty.

Following discussion Council agreed that:

- repatriation was a national priority requiring a whole of government approach and all available resources must be utilized to complete it swiftly;
- the Ministry should aim to complete the formal repatriation programme by October 31 2020.
  Registration to repatriate under this programme would close on August 31 2020. Thereafter, those wishing to return to Anguilla could register to do so via the tourism portal;
- the Ministry of Health should provide the Ministry of Finance with the costs of repatriation incurred to date along with a revised estimate of the costs going forward;
- iv. until further notice HAA should suspend testing of persons requiring proof of their Covid status for overseas travel, except for travel approved by the CMO; and
- v. the Attorney General's Chambers should provide advice on the legal necessity for government run quarantine facilities to be staffed by medically qualified personnel.

Action: PS, HLTH; PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC GEN; HON DG, HON AG; MINS OF GOV'T

#### EX MIN 20/349 EX MEM 20/162 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION SOUTH EAST, BLOCK 79214 B, PARCEL 202 SL C1 & G14 CONTAINING 1367 & 260 SQ FT

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

Council:

(i) approved the granting of an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold, on a freehold basis, land situated in Registration

Section South East, Block 79214 B, described as Parcel 201 Strata Lot SL C1 & G14, consisting of 1367 & 260 sq. ft. respectively, with a strata lot unit thereon located in Sandy Hill for private residential purposes, subject to:

- (a) Payment of the following stamp duties:
  - (i) under the Stamp Act 5% of EC\$604,845.00 EC\$30,242.25
  - (ii) under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$604,845.00 <u>EC\$30,242.25</u>

# TOTAL

## EC\$60,484.50

- (b) Sandy Hill Beach Resort Club Development should be the exclusive renting agent for the villa.
- (c) The Licensees should be required to enter into an agreement with Sandy Hill Beach Resort Club Development for the management and use of the villa for at least forty-four (44) weeks in each calendar year.
- (d) The licensees shall have the right to reside in the villa for a maximum of eight (8) weeks in each calendar year without being liable for the payment of accommodation tax. However, if the applicants wish to live in their villa for a period longer than eight (8) weeks, then they should be required to pay the accommodation tax.
- (ii) agreed that members should carefully consider the rate of stamp duty currently paid under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act.

Action: PS, HA; DLS; HON AG; PS, FIN

#### ORAL MENTION

### EX MIN 20/350 UPDATE ON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

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

The Honourable Attorney General informed Council that the Attorney General's Chambers will be accepting Mr Kennedy Hodge as a Barrister in pupillage, in order to complete his vocational training and that there will be no remuneration. There is no conflict between his pupillage and his position as Chairman of the Water Corporation of Anguilla.

Action: HON AG; PS FIN

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