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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2021 AT 9.00 AM

PRESENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam

The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley

The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health, Dr Ellis Webster

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 Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social

Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson

Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull

PS, Finance, Mrs Kathleen Rogers

PAS, Finance, Ms Marisa Harding-Hodge PS, EDCITENR, Mrs Chanelle Petty-Barrett

PS, MICUHT, Mr Karim Hodge PS, Home Affairs, Dr Aidan Harrigan Budget Director, Ms Shona Proctor Budget Officer, Ms Jamila Gumbs

Chief Project Officer, Mrs Anthea Ipinson

ABSENT: Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,

Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie

EX MIN 21/391 2022 BUDGET ESTIMATE & FORWARD ESTIMATES FOR 2023 TO 2024

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

The 2022 Budget and areas for additional expenditure allocations were submitted to Executive Council for consideration. The 2022-2024 Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Plan (MTEFP) was used as the basis for budget preparation.

Ministerial and departmental submissions and additional spending requests were used to establish the 2022 Budget and Forward Years Estimates.

Given that the approved 2022 expenditure ceiling of \$224,584,237 was above the projected 2021 year-end outturn of \$213,344,045 an amount of EC\$11,240,192 was available for new recurrent expenditure in 2022. This represents a decrease of \$2,126,970 over the 2021 approved Budget Estimate and approximately \$13.22 million over 2020 actual. The Budget Call process yielded a total of EC\$19,437,198 in requests for new spending for 2022. It was therefore necessary to prioritize spending to fit the available resource and the recommended request for new spending is EC\$16,835,623. The difference will therefore be funded through savings of \$5.60 million.

Council:

- 1) noted the proposed 2022 Budget Estimates and the policy decisions required;
- 2) noted the forward budget estimates for 2023 and 2024;
- 3) noted the summary 2022 Budget Components, as follows:

i. Recurrent Revenue: EC\$238,683,760

ii. Recurrent Expenditure: EC\$224,584,237

iii. Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit): EC\$14,099,523

iv. Capital Grants/Revenue: EC\$0

v. Capital Expenditure: EC\$2,000,000

vi. Capital Deficit EC\$(2,000,000)

vii. Overall Balance (before amortization): EC\$12,099,523

viii. Debt Amortization: EC\$35,697,892

ix. Overall Surplus/Deficit

(after amortization): (EC\$23,598,369)

x. Financing: EC\$13,500,000

To include:

CDB (PBL) EC\$13,500,000

CDB (ACC) EC\$0
Other Revenue EC\$0
Opening Sinking Fund Balance EC\$0

xi. Cumulative Balance

after Financing EC\$(10,098,369)

- 4) noted that the proposed new expenditure of EC\$16.9 million is to be funded by the EC\$11.2 million difference between the 2022 baseline and the 2022 MTEFP and also the savings created as a result of a reduction in the HAA subvention and the end of the provision of public assistance;
- 5) noted that presently the health and life insurance loss ratio is 93%, consequently an increase in premium is anticipated, the tender process is currently underway;
- 6) noted that with the completion of numerous infrastructure projects the correct sum for increased maintenance costs should be profiled;

- noted that consideration should be given to aligning the salaries paid by Statutory Bodies with those paid by Government;
- 8) noted that additional information was required showing the budgeted expenditure, the subjective cost analysis and comparative information for prior years together with departmental budget information and this would be returned for further consideration by December 10, 2021;
- 9) noted that the Budget was dependent on projected 2021 outturns being accurate and the ability of departments to run effectively within the confines of the revised allocations. In order to make a proper assessment of the projected outturn position and ascertain whether identified saving sums were accurate further information is needed:
- noted that a contingency plan is to be submitted to the UK Government before the Budget is submitted to the House of Assembly;
- 11) noted the following in relation to the budgets of the Statutory Bodies:
 - a) AASPA. There is no presumption that they will require a subvention however they are projecting a deficit for 2021 and it is unclear at what stage in 2022 they planned to commence returning to a surplus position or how they intend to fund operations. There are expenditure arrears of EC\$9 million. Staff attrition is ongoing and some salaried positions are being changed to contractual ones. Confirmation that regulatory and security requirements are being met is required. Passenger numbers should be reviewed for consistency with the MTEFP.
 - b) WCA. There is a projected unfunded deficit of EC\$1 million for 2022 that needs to be addressed. It was also unclear if the projected outturn position for 2021 was accurately calculated. To improve the accuracy of the budgeting exercise the expenditure areas need to be projected consistently, particularly, utilities, water production costs and accounting and auditing. The subvention may not be adequate.

- c) HAA. The budget was revised to align with the subvention, which was reduced by EC\$1.5 million. The HAA provided information on the impact that this would have on the services it can provide. The Ministry of Health will review this further.
- d) ATB. Noted that some contract reductions were temporary arrangements as a consequence of the pandemic. The subvention amount has not been explained or quantified and this information is necessary. The advertising and promotion expenditure head has been reduced with the sums being reallocated to other expenditure heads. Some expenditure heads have been increased significantly.
- e) ACC. The subvention was increased in 2021 to align with the loan repayment, the budget assumes that the subvention will remain the same. Administration costs are supposed to be shared with the Ministry and this needs to be reviewed as savings can be made by doing this. Further consideration of the budget needs to be undertaken to ensure that it aligns with the Government position and costs are not duplicated. Concern was raised that the increases were directed towards administrative rather than faculty costs.
- f) PUC. Remuneration levels are not aligned with the Public Service. Expenditure is consistent and revenues had not been properly recorded in the budget template.
- g) PSPF. An increase in government employer contributions is planned and statutory bodies need to ensure that they provide similar employer cost increases. There is a deficit, but it is funded from reserves.
- h) ANT. The budget mirrors the 2021 budget. It is funded by Government subvention and grant funds.
- i) Select Anguilla. Trading has not commenced fully and it is funded by a consortium.

- j) ADB. Expenditure for the year is to be completed in full.
- k) SSB. The submission is to be competed in the Government template and resubmitted before full consideration can be given.
- I) FSC. No submission was made.

Action: HON, DG; PERM SECS; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/392 COVID-19 UPDATE

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

The PS Health updated Council on the process for day-trips to St Maarten. Dedicated port staff have been identified to facilitate the process. A certificate will be issued to persons travelling which shall state, the passport number, name, date of return and date for Day 4 test. A band will be given and that can be removed after the Day 4 test result is received. A day trip is defined as a trip of less than 24 hours and a one night stay is permitted within this, if the length of stay is any longer, then the portal must be used to apply for re-entry.

Persons from St. Maarten may travel to Anguilla for a day-trip, however, no overnight stays are permitted and a vaccination card and negative entry test must be submitted for entry.

A press release will be issued shortly with day-trips commencing on December 8 or 9.

Council:

 agreed that tourists in Anguilla are also permitted to complete day-trips, in the same way that residents can and the Regulations shall be amended to reflect this.

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

EX MIN 21/393 ABSENCE FROM EXCO

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

Council noted that the Hon Minister for MICUHT and the Hon Parliamentary Secretary will be absent from Council on December 9 and the Hon Premier will act on the Ministers behalf for the period December 8 - 11.

Action: CLK, EXCO
