

THE COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

6th MEETING OF 2011

MINUTES

27 JUNE, 2011

CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMISSIONS SECRETARIAT

PRESENT: Karin M. Thompson Chair
Nyda Mae Flatley Member
Hedley Robinson Member

APOLOGIES: Roy McTaggart Member
Pastor Winston Rose Member

SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:
Deborah Bodden Manager, Commissions Secretariat

1. Meeting called to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:47pm. Mr. Robinson opened the meeting with a prayer and the Chair then welcomed all members of the Commission.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 May, 2011 were approved.

3. Outstanding Business

a. Update on SPL Bill 2011 [Fourth Draft];

Having had the benefit of meeting with Sir Jeffery Jowell on the 22nd June 2011, members were advised that the Chairman will be meeting with the Secretariat to finalize the draft bill to be forwarded to the Governor and Deputy Governor.

b. Lesser Contracts Falling Outside the Remit of the CTC

It was confirmed that the review of current practice and procedures relating to the procurement process of those contracts falling below C1\$250,000.00 has now been completed. Members expressed the view that it is apparent that there is a lack of clear and established guidelines needed to ensure the DTC's can achieve their intended objectives. The Commission found that the CTC has a dual role in that while they are only responsible for tenders over the value of C1\$250,000 they are responsible with charging the DTC's (who are responsible for tenders under the value of C1\$250,000) with certain tasks to assist them in their role. These findings based on research, meetings and discussions will be expanded upon in the Commission's third report.

It was further agreed that as part of the recently completed review of the procurement process, the CSPL will be making the appropriate recommendations with a view to ensuring that the 7 Nolan Principles adopted by the Commission are incorporated. It is intended that these codes of conduct will take the Commission one step forward towards ensuring the prevention of corruption or conflict of

interest. The Secretariat was asked to carry out a preliminary review so that the Commission may determine the extent of any existing statutory guidelines that may form the basis of the recommendations to be made by the Commission in this regard.

c. Professor Jowell's Visit

Members expressed their thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Governor for having been afforded the opportunity to meet with Professor Sir Jeffery Jowell during his recent visit to the Island.

The Commission found Sir Jeffrey's visit very useful and valuable information was gleaned from the discussions.

d. Correspondence from the Constitutional Commission

Members were asked to consider recent correspondence received by the Chairman from the Constitutional Commission. The first letter dated 21 June, 2011 addressed the query received by the Constitutional Commission (CC) pertaining to civil servants' ability to sign petitions. Members agreed that the subject matter did not fall within the remit of the CSPL and, as such, there was no need for any further discussion on the matter. Members were also provided with a copy of a letter dated 14 June, 2011 from the CC together with the letter from the Chair in response. The members discussed the concept of the proposed visioning meeting and stated that they saw no present need to attend a meeting of this nature. Members expressed the view that they were adequately briefed by their Chair on the discussions which occurred at the quarterly chairpersons meeting. The CSPL members noted that in the future if there was a specific topic related to the CSPL mandate that warranted a meeting, they would be happy to meet with the CC.

e. Constitution Week (July 4th – 9th)

The Secretariat informed that all members had received via e-mail the information pertaining to signing up for media engagements during Constitution Week.

f. Obtaining Public Input

The Chairman asked that members give some thought about this topic for the next meeting. She noted that we must respect the public's right to comment and/or criticise the Commission. She further noted that these comments and/or criticisms should be taken constructively and would not necessarily require a response unless the circumstances so warranted.

4. Any other business

Freedom of Information

Members were advised that the Chair has been copied in on correspondence from the Information Commissioner addressed to His Excellency the Governor. The matter was raised at the Quarterly Chairpersons meeting and has been left for the Governor to further inform the Secretariat on his position and thus the direction to be taken in this regard.

5. Items to be discussed at next the meeting

- a. Appointment of Persons to Statutory Boards; and
- b. Obtaining Public Input.

6. Action List

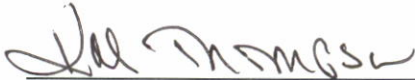
- a. Members will turn their minds to how the Commission can obtain public input and on what topics they should do so.
- b. The Secretariat will draft correspondence for the Chair to send to the Constitutional Commission in regards to 3 d above.
- c. The Secretariat will draft correspondence for the Chair to send to His Excellency the Governor thanking him for the funding and training opportunity.
- d. The Secretariat will review the various Statutory Boards and determine which ones have statutory guidelines for appointments.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting of the CSPL will be held on 18 July, 2011 at 2:30 pm in the Commissions Secretariat boardroom.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.



Karin Thompson
CHAIRMAN
COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE