**Minutes of the Virgin Islands Taxicab**

**September 28, 2021 – Linda Smith**

**Members present: Chairperson Lloyd, Vice Chair Watley, Secretary George, Members Georges, and Sweeny. Members Brathwaite and Paris were absent.**

Chairperson Lloyd welcomed everyone and asked Secretary George to say a prayer. After many technical issues, Director Linda Smith brought a brief report. Smith noted she met with all employees individually and collectively so that all know what I expect of them individually and as the VITCC Team. In reference to the letter that Officer Mena wrote to the Board, Smith stated that she spoke to Mena concerning their differences and further stated that she did not think it was necessary for him to have written to the Board but that they could have handled their differences on their level. She pointed out that Officer Mena apologized to her and stated that he would call all Board Members and apologize for sending the letter. She did not know if he had done so but stated that she did not care whether he did or not, she just wanted to move forward. Chairperson Lloyd interjected by stating to ED Smith that she mentioned that she only had one item to speak on. Smith answered yes and told her this was the item.



Smith also noted that the problem she had today was, Officer Callwood and Officer Dawson are meeting the requirements, but Officer Mena has not reported to her. She would be doing reports on him and that’s all she had to say about that. She stated, “that ends my update”. Lloyd stated that the Hearings should come through ED office, and she should then advise Hearing Officer Member Vincent Georges. Also, Lloyd said the email received from Officer Mena was a complaint against her (ED) and as such it should have gone to the Board. She further stated that a copy of the email was provided to her. Smith began to have technical issues with her connectivity and Secretary George recommended she shut down the video

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and use audio only. She tried and there was no change so ED stated she would all on What’s App. The Board was unable to continue with Director Smith who called on What’s App while the Board was on Zoom. We were unable to operate two separate platforms, so the meeting proceeded without the Director. Chairperson Lloyd was able to tell Smith that she would communicate in writing to her with any questions.

**Pertaining to Office space for St. Croix**, Chairperson Lloyd stated the ED sent all pertinent information as it is 5000 square feet for approximately 6 employees. The rent would be $8,960.00 per month. It would require electrical work, WAPA hookup, maintenance, trash removal, Internet, etc., and we would be looking at $6, 000.00 per month for those areas, which would take us to $14,000.00 per month, at least, to get the space to where we could move in. It is stated that the tenant was allowed to share space with another government agency. With the depressed economy on St. Croix currently, was VITCC territorially pulling in enough revenues to sustain the proposed rent. She further stated that we also have rent to pay on St. Thomas as well. She reminded us that the rental fee for St. Thomas was $1200.00 per month, and we are in arrears as it stands now. She also noted other avenues to be taken into consideration that may help to offset the rental fee, such as vacant positions of the Deputy and the Chief in the number of $88,000.00. An analysis would have to be done to see if we would truly be able to afford this property, Chairperson Lloyd stated. She also noted that furniture would also need to be purchased and that’s not included in any of the figures mentioned.

Georges stated that Member Sweeny is on St. Croix, please have him speak on it. Sweeny agrees the St. Croix economy is depressed and raising funds on the backs of taxi operators should not be an option. He stated that we must seek funds from elsewhere. He then said rather than sending the ED off on a chase to find a St. Croix Office, we need to tell her the Budget she should work in. Lloyd said she wrote Senator Vialet requesting an additional $300,000.00 for year 2022. Georges asked if Sweeny would check AVIS newspaper for any vacant space as this current proposal appears to be too expensive. He mentioned that he would look for something around not more than $5000.00 per month.

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Georges noted that there appeared to still have some employee problems in the St. Thomas Office. He was speaking based on the brief report that ED Smith gave us today. We must remember that we need to get an Assistant Director on the St. Thomas as the Executive Director is based on St. Croix, Member Georges stated. Secretary George stated that she knows supervision is needed and she gave an example that Officer Callwood was currently working on contract with Tourism Department as security around the tourist areas on St. Thomas. This work was not told to ED Smith by Tourism, but she learned of this; however, the vehicle and the enforcement car is being utilized, unknown to her. Additionally, Secretary George said that she has been handling the payroll for TCC as recently as today and Callwood clocks in but can never clock out. Recently, she stated, I was told to deduct two hours when he punched out at 7pm and she did and then ED Smith told her to give it back to him. The request was basically for unknown reasons and thus George said she did not return the 2 hours. George stated that VITCC needed to be aware that this can be another case of double dipping and she will not knowingly be a part of that. The ED needs to get a handle on this. Callwood is constantly complaining that Officer Mena is locking him out, but he needed to get back to the Office by 4:45 p.m at the latest. Secretary George stated that the ED needed to ascertain if in fact Callwood is on a security contract with Tourism and it needs be responded to in writing.

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The Chairperson stated that ED Smith wants to hire two Administrative Coordinators, one on St. Thomas and the other on St. Croix and she would like to know what the job entails. As the ED can speak with the Board again, that’s a question I have for her, Chairperson Lloyd stated. Lloyd stated she sent the resumes of Ms. Vernice Gumbs and Ms. Jackson, former applicants for the Executive Director position. Now that there is an ED, Chairperson Lloyd stated the Board can now go back to dealing with Policies and Procedures.

Secretary George asked if the Board can now address the Safari inquiries. Chairperson then listed names of Safari owner inquires that the Board needed to address. George stated that Claxton Safari should be addressed in the presence of

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BMV Director McIntosh was the person that approved the operation and registration of that Safari and not the Board. From the discussion, Randy R. Liburd was in arrears with $4100.00 and Member Sweeny made a motion to have him pay 50% ($2050.00) immediately. If not paid in 30 days, it reverts to $4100.00. Mr. Evans Wallace was placed in the What’s App chat. Evans wants to purchase an existing 25-seater Safari-2013. Secretary George, after much discussion on the Safari, requested to have the Board come together and revisit their own policy 9.3 because it was clear members did not understand the language. Members present agreed. George placed a motion to table all Safari inquires and have the Board return to discussion Section 403 and Board Policy 9.3. Seconded by Member Sweeny and voted yes by Georges, Sweeny, Lloyd, Brathwaite and George. Watley was excused and Paris was absent. Secretary stated, Madam Chair, we have 5 yes, 1 excused and 1 absent…Motion passed. Immediately following the vote, Member Sweeny had to leave and thus ended the meeting after 1 hour and 46 minutes.