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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013 AT 16:30hrs IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE**

**Council Members present:** Jacques Nioteau, Thomas Bayer, Bryan Death, Daniel Faivre, Geordie Mackenzie-Reur, Donald Massing and Morgan Bragg

**Representatives of Council Members:** John Moran representing Paul Stafford

**Executives present:** Astrid Boulekone

**Apologies:** Chris Kernot, Jioji Konusi, Joseph Laloyer, Alain Lew, Paul Stafford, James Roy Matariki, Anita Deroin, David Russet and Narcisse Sumtoh

**1. Opening**

There was no quorum; the General Manager called the meeting to order at 16:50 hours.

**2. Welcome by President**

The President made the opening speech in French to welcome all the attendees and the General Manager made the opening speech in English to welcome all the attendees.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 30 April 2012**

Bryan Death moved that the minutes are not accepted as the included minutes are of the AGM held on 30 April 2011. It was resolved that the General Manager is to circulate the minutes of the AGM held on 30 April 2012 by email.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

In relation to the issue of nomination of Council Members, Thomas Bayer put to the floor the following Council Member election process for consideration:

- That we elect council members at the AGM as some sectors do not have organisations representing them
- That if there is more than one nomination per sector, then that sector can choose
- That if there is only one nomination, that nomination will be elected
- That if there are no nominations, we will nominate from the floor.

The Floor approved the process.

**5. Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2012**

Bryan Death noted that as a Council Member, he wanted to recognize the significant work being done behind the scenes at a management level, especially with regards to establishing a proper business license database which provides an excellent foundation for the future in terms of communications in general and communications with regards to what

the Chamber is doing with government. If you are a business license holder in the room we should now be able to contact you via email.

The Council Members have also spent a lot of time working with government - and recently there has been a lot of work around the 100 day agenda. Organisations like the Chamber are going to have to move quickly if we are to be a significant force in the organisation of the new government - but he believes that we can do that and we have the capacity to do that.

The Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 was approved. The motion was passed.

## **6. Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2012**

Tom Bayer noted a clean audit certificate that is not qualified. He also noted that the Chamber has reported a small loss for the year which is mostly a non-cash loss. The main reason is that the auditor has assessed the depreciation for the year and included more items such as the containers - which tipped the results from profitable to negative for the year.

Thomas Bayer noted that the size of the operation of the Chamber increased dramatically for the year mostly related to training, and we also picked up Wik blong Vanuatu as income for the year. Employment costs have also jumped dramatically related to the increase of operations.

Bryan Death noted that there has been some criticism from some sectors of government in relation to the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce vs. the Port Vila Chamber of Commerce. The Council has addresses this with various government officials and stressed that where there is an established Chamber we provide funding (e.g. Santo) however volunteers are needed to build the Chambers in the islands.

Thomas Bayer explained that as the Port Vila Council we are technically the Capital Chamber under the Act which has some obligations outside the normal Chamber, such as assisting potential investors.

Jacques Nioteau noted that the property loan has been decreasing.

Morgan Bragg moved to accept the report. Thomas Bayer seconded. The Floor approved and the motion was passed.

## **7. Auditor's Report for the Year ended 31 December 2012**

Thomas Bayer notes that the report is unqualified.

The Auditor's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 was approved. The motion was passed.

## **8. Election of Council Members**

The following nominations were accepted and unopposed:

Logistics Transport - Chris Kernot

Small Commerce - Daniel Faivre

Tourism - Bryan Death

Finance - Thomas Bayer

Geordie Mackenzie-Reur nominated Willie Karie to represent the shipping industry, seconded by Thomas Bayer:

Shipping Industry - Willie Karie

Thomas Bayer noted that there is a problem with attendance with certain representatives who do not attend meetings and hence do not adequately represent their industries. He asked that all sector organisations to nominate someone who is interested to contribute.

**9. Other Business**

Bryan Death explained that the Chamber's recommendation is to do a study on the role of VIPA to the government, how they are performing and how best to move forward as a first step. Thomas Bayer also noted that the role of promoting investment in Vanuatu should be to hold the hand of the investor to help grow the economy of Vanuatu.

**10. Closure**

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 17:55 hours.

Signed as a correct record:

Chairman