

12TH THROMDE TSHOGDE MINUTES (2nd Council)

THIMPHU THROMDE



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Abbreviations

AFD	-	Administration and Finance Division
APA	-	Annual Performance Agreement
BHU	-	Basic Health Unit
BPCL	-	Bhutan Power Corporation Limited
DRD	-	Development Regulatory Division
ENV	-	Environment
FY	-	Fiscal Year
FYP	-	Five Year Plan
HHs	-	Households
HRC	-	Human Resource Committee
HQ	-	Head Quarter
ID	-	Infrastructure Division
JDWNRH	-	Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital
JDWPL	-	Jigme Dorji Wangchuck Public Library
JWTP	-	Jungzhina Water Treatment Plant
LAP	-	Local Area Plan
NLCS	-	National Land Commission Secretariat
SDP	-	Small Development Project
TEO	-	Thromde Education Officer

Definition

Demkhongs	-	Constituency
Thromde	-	City
Thrompon	-	Mayor
Thuemi	-	Council Member
Tshechu	-	Festival
Tshogde	-	Council

12th Thromde Tshogde Minutes

Date: 31st August 2018

Venue: Chunidhing Resort

Time: 9:30AM – 9:00PM

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all the Members of the Thromde Tshogde and the Officials of Thimphu Thromde for the 12th Thromde Tshogde. The Chair began the session with words of condolences to one of the Tshogde members whose spouse demised recently.

The Chair also informed the floor that Thromde will have to be ready to carry out the works once the capital budget for the FY 2018-2019 is approved by the new Government in the winter Parliament Session. The Officiating Executive Secretary informed that starting this Fiscal Year, all tender works will have to be carried out through e-procurement. Therefore, budget for FY 2018-2019 will have to be approved before it is processed through e-procurement even if it is funded through internal revenue.

He also reminded the floor on the need to curb corruption in Thromde. He said there is no room for corruption and the Management or the Tshogde will show zero tolerance to it. He even cited the example of one of the support staff of Thromde who recently retired on the grounds of corruption.

The Chair also informed that in the recent days, he has received many applications and also approved some through the management regarding the football and basketball tournaments where Thromde employees are participating. He said that Thromde Management as well as the Tshogde has full support for such incentives for the staff however, the Tshogde in return will expect improved efficiency in service delivery and extra effort to further enhance the Thromde revenue. He also suggested that enhancement of Thromde revenue can even be put as one of the targets in Thromde APA 2018-19.

The Tshogde after having adopted the agenda for the 12th Thromde Tshogde began with the session as follows:

Agenda 12.1 - Thromde Level Committee for Consumer Protection as per Act

The Norzin Thuemi informed the floor on the need to have Thromde level committee for Consumer Protection as per the Act. The committee will be responsible for conducting inspection and also to solve any issues that may arise related to consumer protection within Thromde areas.

Discussion

Many members shared that this will require further studies on the roles and responsibilities of the committee and also who all should be in the committee. In absence of Legal Officer, the

Tshogde could not understand the background of the need to form committee and therefore, the members could not decide.

Decision

Tshogde decided that Legal Officer will have to work out clearly and present to next Tshogde in detail the need to establish a committee and also the terms of reference for the committee.

Action: Legal Officer to put to next Tshogde

Agenda 12.2 - Charges for relocation of Electric Poles in Private Plot

The point was shared by Norzin Thuemi that such grievances are shared by many residents. When the electric poles in private plots had to be relocated, the charges for relocation are levied on the private plot owners. The thuemi has put to Tshogde to discuss if the problems could be solved or the charges be reduced substantially through Thromde Tshogde's intervention.

Discussion

The other thuemis also shared the similar views on the need for Thromde's intervention in such issues. The officiating Executive Secretary also reminded that such issues were discussed in Thromde Coordination Meeting at Samdrupjongkhar and all Thromdes are required to submit such list to the MoWHS who in turn will take up the matter with BPC, but so far it has not been done. To this the Chair said that it is not necessary to send the list to MoWHS as BPCL will never listen to shift it at their own cost. The Jungzhina thuemi said that such issues were discussed in previous Tshogdes also and such cases in his areas were resolved based on the earlier decisions. In the earlier decision, if the relocation had to be carried out as a result of Thromde plans and programs, it will have to be borne by Thromde. However, if the private plot was not disturbed by the LAPs, then Thromde will not be responsible for the relocation.

The Chair informed further that as per the BPCL rules, if the electric poles are being erected before the plot has been allotted to that plot owner, the relocation will have to be done by the plot owner himself/herself. He also clarified that there will be cost sharing between BPCL and Thromde based on the age of the infrastructures being proposed for relocation as included in the MoU signed.

Decision

The Tshogde decided that if it is the case of one or two people, it can directly be brought to Thromde and Thromde in coordination with BPCL will facilitate to solve the issues. Only those cases which affect people at large shall be tabled in the Tshogde. This applies to all other constituencies and Thuemis concerned. The earlier Tshogde decision on the same issues will be upheld.

Action: Norzin Thuemi

Agenda 12.3 - Quality of works to be ensured in all contracts in all Demkhongs

This was also raised by the people of the Norzin Demkhongs during their meeting with the Norzin Thuemi. Many people shared that many contract works are found to be unsatisfactory in terms of quality. This was based on the observations of the people where the quality of the completed works is found to be compromised.

The ID Chief informed that the division has been focusing on ensuring the quality of the works and if the quality of the works is found to be compromised, the bills are not being passed. He also shared that during handing taking of the completed works, Thuemis could be involved and if they think the works are not up to the expectation; Thromde will not take over unless the contractor rectifies it.

The Chair also informed the floor that we will have to question ourselves where are we going wrong in such cases and rectify immediately. He also said that Thromde Midey Tshogpas and Thuemis can also inform Thromde or the division concerned on spot if such grievances are received or observed. Only then it can be stopped and rectified before more damages are done. He also questioned on the quality of works done departmentally especially the road from IT Park to Serbithang which has already started to form potholes.

Decision

Chief Engineer will have to ensure that the quality is not being compromised on all contract works and concerned area Thuemi will have to be involved for inspection of the sites. Midey Tshogpas and Thuemi will have to report such incidences on spot to Thromde or the ID. The Chair also informed the floor that there shall be a meeting with the Midey Tshogpas after the National Assembly election and Thuemis are required to organize the same in their respective constituencies.

Action: ID and Thuemis

Agenda 12.4 – Requisition for a Vegetable shed in Taba

Taba-Dechencholing thuemi requested the Tshogde to construct one vegetable shed at Taba which would benefit both the people of Taba, Dechencholing and adjoining areas.

Discussion

The Chair informed the floor that it is necessary to have such facilities in the area. It will not only benefit Taba but also Jungzhina, Pamtsho and Dechencholing areas. He also informed that Thromde has identified spaces for the construction of satellite clinic (BHU) and City bus parking area, Children Park and other related structures in the area. More of sport avenues will have to be developed in support of the youths and others who are interested within Thromde. The members shared appreciations for such initiatives taken by Thromde and requested Thromde to replicate in other LAP areas. The Chair advised UPD, Thimphu Thromde to prepare a plan to utilize the land and include in the Thromde 12th FYP after being endorsed by the Tshogde and NLCS.

Decision

All thuemis will have to discuss with the concerned Urban Planner and carryout detail work out on identifying areas within their constituencies for development. If the development of structure falls within the government land, the plan will have to be routed through UPD. During the meeting with Midey Tshogpas as decided in agenda 3, UPD will have to present all these proposals with tentative estimates and discuss on the activities to be proposed in the 12th FYP.

Action: UPD and Thuemis

Agenda 12.5 - Green Road not able to carry out their business as agreed

It was agreed between the Green Road organization and Thromde that all plastics related litters in Taba-Dechencholing area will be taken up by Green Road. Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi reported that the Green Road is now not able to carry out their business due to problems of not having vehicles to collect the stored plastics from the residences.

Discussion

The Chair informed that the issue has been discussed with the Environment Division and it was agreed that Thromde will temporarily provide Green Road with shed/space (Old Veterinary Hospital space) for storing the plastics collected over a period of time. Once enough plastics are collected, it will then be transferred to Jemina for further processing. Thromde will also develop waste collection and segregation center in Kelki School area where people who cannot avail the scheduled waste collection services can use the center for waste disposal. However, people will be required to bring their wastes in two different bags, one for wet wastes and other for dry. Then the dry wastes will be further segregated into 4-5 items there accordingly. This can be replicated to other areas if it is found successful depending on the needs.

Decision

Thromde will provide shed/space (Old Veterinary Hospital) for the Green Road to store all its plastics collected before it can be transferred to Jemina for further processing. Green Road will be requested to continue their business and Thromde will provide all necessary support. Thromde will also establish waste segregation center in Kelki School areas on a pilot basis and will replicate to other areas.

Action: ENV Division

Agenda 12.6 - Archery range for Taba**Decision**

It was discussed and agreed that no archery range could be approved. However such proposals should be put up through the Environment Division.

Action: Taba Thuemi

Agenda 12.7 - Sewer/Drains outlets from Lungtenphu Army HQ causing nuisance to lower settlements

Olakha Thuemi informed that the drains and sewer outlets from the Lungtenphu Army HQ areas are causing nuisance in the lower settlements. She said that Thromde need to intervene and resolve the issues. It has also affected the implementation of other Thromde activities such as road and drain constructions.

Discussion

The Chair informed that the problem in those areas are worsening and will have to be taken up very soon. The issue needs to be apprised to RBA to construct the sewer network and connect to the STP. With regard to drainage issue, he also informed the floor that drain construction in that area will have to be taken up through TRIP project if it is not included in the contract. The discussion to inform RBA to come up with the plan to develop a detailed sewer network within their campus was also deliberated. The network can be connected to the sewer treatment plant at Babesa. Currently this has been a menace to the settlements in the lower areas.

Decision

The Tshogde decided to write to Army HQ to intervene and solve the issues permanently.

Action: Sewer Section, ID

Agenda 12.8 – Issues of Government land encroachment/no clear proper plot boundary in Changjiji area

The issues were raised by Olakha Thuemi with regard to government land encroachment and improper plot boundaries in Changjiji areas. She informed that there are also issues of site inspector giving land leases without informing the Thromde Management and the area Thuemi. There are also issues where plot adjustments are being carried out in the areas and the Thuemi questioned Thromde if such cases are allowed.

Discussion

The Chair was of the opinion that short term lease should not be approved by an individual planner or the engineer of the area. There are possibilities that such land leasing can create disharmony in the locality. Any available state land is not required to be given on lease for the benefit of one individual at the sacrifices of the community. Such leasing of the land for construction needs to be approved by the Management. He also mentioned that the particular land cannot be considered lease as the Environment Division has signed MoU for development of micro gardens. Other Thuemis shared similar views on this case and agreed to terminate the lease. Regarding the plot adjustment, the Officiating Executive Secretary said the written complaint can be put to Thromde at the earliest.

Decision

The respective Urban Planner and the Site inspector will have to seek approval of either the Thrompon or/and Executive Secretary while proposing government land for short term lease. Land lease once approved will be informed to the respective Tshogpa for information. The current land lease in discussion will be terminated and the Environment Division should observe that plantation is carried out.

Action: UPD/Site inspector, ENV Division and Area Thuemi

Agenda 12.9 – Sewer line construction left incomplete in Changjiji areas**Decision**

Tshogde directed the case to be discussed directly with Infrastructure Division. Tshogde did not table the issue.

Action: Olakha Thuemi

Agenda 12.10 - Aum Karma Delma's case - Access to her parking space

Access to the parking space of Aum Karma Delma has been damaged by Thromde while constructing connection road from Olakha LAP to the old highway. The Thuemi informed that Thromde should consider the request to provide approval for construction of a retaining wall to develop a roadside parking opposite to Karma's building in the state land.

Discussion

The Chair suggested the meeting that UPD should carry out a detailed study and find out the list of government land within Thromde. UPD can even propose to go on retreat and develop the complete inventory of all different sizes of the state land available. This can ensure planning of the state land either to develop into parks, micro gardens, bus sheds, basketball courts, etc. Thromde will have to take up all government land within Thromde.

Decision

The Tshogde decided that the case of Aum Karma Delma will be approved based on the site visit and earlier correspondences. UPD can propose to go on a retreat to carry out the complete inventory development of all government land within Thromde or hire consultants for the same. UPD will also have to inform the utility service providers like Bhutan Telecom and BPCL to also indicate their requirements for setting up of substations and telecommunication towers.

Action: UPD and ID for site visit

Agenda 12.11 - The accountability of complaints lodged with regard to contract works in Demkhongs to be held by Concerned Thromde Officials

This was submitted by all Thuemis with regard to complaints that they lodge to Thromde Management or individual Officials with regard to any problems observed in their areas.

Thuemis reported that they feel such complaints are not taken up by any Official in Thromde Office.

Discussion

The Chair informed that cleaning works will have to be carried out by Environment Division and only the construction part will be done by Infrastructure Division in response to the examples set by all Thuemis regarding drainage maintenances. He also informed that area Thuemis will have to be involved in handing taking of the completed works. There has to be a check list to look at during inspection of the sites for taking over the completed works.

Babesa Thuemi also submitted that road cutting for laying pipes, cable, etc. by private owners or any organization has been rampant in his constituency. He informed that area Thuemis are not aware whether such activities are being carried out with prior permission of Thromde or not. For this, the Chief Engineer informed that the engineers have always been informed of monitoring such activities and levy fines for any defaulters.

Decision

Area Thuemis to be involved in handing taking of the sites and certain check list will have to be developed taking into consideration all likely issues at the sites. Failing to fulfill all required checklist, the Occupancy Certificate or bills will not be issued/renewed or passed. Thuemis will have to inform the Chief Engineer if any suspicious activities are being carried out in their areas and Infrastructure Division should take action accordingly. Regarding issues submitted by Babesa Thuemi, the Tshogde decided to levy fines and penalties whosoever is responsible and notify them that henceforth, prior approval from Thromde is required.

Action: All Thuemis and ID

Agenda 12.12 - Land lease and plot relocation and adjustment to be informed to Thuemis

Decision

The decision is same as decided for Agenda 3&8. The area thuemi will have to be involved.

Action: All Concerned Officials of UPD and Inspector Tandin for short term leasing.

Agenda 12.13 – The works carried out by the former officials to be held accountable for its Defects and other Liabilities

When the issues/shortcomings observed at the sites are reported to Thromde, it is found out that the work has been carried out by past officials. Therefore, all thuemis has put to Tshogde to fix those officials who have failed to comply with the rules and regulations in the past and has caused problems now.

Discussion

The Chief Engineer informed that officials are being held accountable by the audit memo but the rectifications are always being carried out as and when required. The Tshogde members

informed that such issues can be tracked down and put to his/her name and then held them accountable.

Decision

All such issues will have to be listed and fix the responsible Officials. Any issues related to building or infrastructure or any other issues that are carried out without strict compliances to existing rules and regulations will have to be fixed. If Officials are found to be corrupt, they will be terminated and the issues will have to be thoroughly discussed in the Management Meeting.

Action – DRD and HRC

Agenda 12.14 – Thromde Coordination Cup

During the recent meeting among four Thromdes, it was decided to conduct Thromde Coordination Cup annually among four Thromdes with two teams from each Thromde consisting of 15 players in each team. The registration fee is Nu 30,000 for each team and the hosting Thromde will have to bear all the costs related to tournament. The total estimated cost for this year is 125,000 which include transportation, jersey and other sport items. The first tournament is being hosted by Phuentsholing Thromde.

Decision

A registration fee of Nu 60,000 is approved for the football tournament at Phuentsholing. However, for transportation, the School Bus can be arranged with POL and DSA for the driver being paid from this approved budget of Nu 125,000.00. The members however, highlighted that such incentives are being considered looking at the improvement made in various services rendered by Thromde and also the revenue increase achieved through digitization of land and property registrations.

Action: ADM Officer

Agenda 12.15 – Land tax for City Hall

It was discussed with NLCS regarding the issuance of lagthram in the name of Thromde for the land that was marked for City Hall construction. It was found out that there was an area mismatch between the figure with Thromde and the figure with the NLCS. The NLCS also informed that all institutions now will not have registered land in the name of the institution but will be provided with LUC (Land Use Certificate). So Thromde will also be provided with LUC. But Thromde has not paid taxes since the issuance of lagthram in 2012, which comes to around Nu 385,149.35 including penalty. After the payment of the tax with penalty, the LUC will be issued in the name of Thromde.

Discussion

If it is paid, it will be both revenue and expenditure for Thromde. For the accounting system, the members felt the need to pay the land tax and get the LUC.

Decision

The payment of land tax including penalty, a sum of Nu 385149.35 from the revenue has been approved by Tshogde. Tshogde also decided to include in the budget from next FY including all other assets of Thromde.

Action: ADM and Finance Section

Agenda 12.16 – Staff Quarters for Thromde Staffs

The ADM Officer presented to the Tshogde the list of staff quarters along with staffs living in it within Thimphu Thromde. This includes low income housing, labor camps and care taker houses especially for those Water Treatment Plants. This was submitted to Tshogde to decide upon the amount of rental fees decided to levy on them as proposed through the Management. The Management had proposed to charge Nu 500/- per month for day workers and 8% of their salaries for the skilled workers like electricians, meter readers and plumbers.

Discussion

Chief engineer submitted to the floor that it is necessary for Thromde to collect such rentals from them who are required to live there to monitor the work sites such as treatment plants or the water reservoirs or are required to come out and work during emergency/odd hours. Instead he sought the support of the Management and the Tshogde to kindly consider waiving off of the rental charges as an incentive to perform better. After prolonged deliberations, the members supported the proposal to waive off the rental charges.

Decision

The Tshogde waived off the rental charges with the effect from the month of October 2018. The ADM Officer in co-ordination with Site Engineer Mr. Sonam Namgay will have to conduct the inspection of the 16 units low income housing in Changangkha and ensure that there are no internal damages to the electrical and sanitary fittings. Even for the new allotment, Thromde will have to make sure that they will have to surrender houses in the same condition when they vacate, any damages will be repaired at their cost. The other condition is that, in the event of any emergencies, these staffs occupying the low income housing are required to render their services anytime including the odd hours.

Action: ADM Officer

Agenda 12.17 – Parking card for Schools while visiting Thromde Office for official purposes

Thromde education Officer on behalf of the School Principals submitted the request to the Tshogde that, each Schools be provided with a free parking card in the name of the School so that anyone visiting Thromde Office for an Official works can avail the free parking card facility. This is in addition to the parking cards provided for each Principal of the schools in their respective names.

Decision

The members recognizing the need of such support for the School administration agreed to the request. However, this new card in the name of the School will only be used for visiting the Thromde Office and will not be entertained after office hours and on the weekends. TEO is required to inform the School Principals accordingly.

Action: TEO

Agenda 12.18 – Post-paid SIM for principals

This was put up by Thromde Education Officer. The proposal states that, the School Principals be provided with Nu 1,500 ceiling postpaid SIM per month. Many members said that even Dasho Thrompon and Executive Secretary get a voucher allowance of Nu 1,000 per month.

Decision

Tshogde did not approve the proposal of providing Nu 1500 ceiling postpaid SIM to Principals.

Action: TEO

Agenda 12.19 – Purchase of water meters to be financed from internal revenue

The meters have been procured upon prior approval from the Thromde Management. 400 numbers of 20 MM water meters at Nu 2200 per meter have been procured. A total of Nu 880,000 has been spent and 50% of water meter of the total procured has been installed and even recovered the cost. The water section also presented on the status of procurement of water master meters, domestic meters and meter test bench. The tender evaluation for the same is going on.

Discussion

The meter costs will be recovered from the house owners plus they will have to pay certain connection charges and will be returned to the reserve fund.

Decision

The cost for this will have to be made from the fund balances of SDP IV water projects. If there are no fund balances from SDP project, the same amount will have to be met from Thromde revenue.

Action: Water Section, ID

Agenda 12.20 – Replacement of actuators for JWTP

The replacement charges for actuators for JWTP to be financed from internal revenue. The water section presented that the JWTP was commissioned in the year 2005 and major

maintenance has never been carried out since then. The JWTP serves Hejo, Dzong area, Lingkana, Zilukha and JDWNRH areas.

The activity include rewiring lighting system, thorough inspection of pneumatic systems, changing of filter media, consulting pumps and motor experts and the channel in the plants need to be repainted. The total cost come to around 3.00M.

Discussion

The Chair informed the floor that the maintenance works will have to be carried out before such breakdown occur. Henceforth, there shouldn't be any cases of requiring major maintenances due to not carrying out preventive maintenances.

Decision

Tshogde approved the amount to be used from the SDP IV water supply project fund balances and if there are no fund balances, it will be used from Thromde revenue.

Action: Water Section

Agenda 12.21 - Endorsement for Nu 0.5M

The water section presented to the Tshogde the endorsement of Nu 0.5M expenditure for the procurement of G.I pipes, HDPE pipes and fittings for O&M of water supply system.

Decision

Tshogde without further deliberations approved Nu 0.5 M to be used from the revenue.

Action: Water Section

Agenda 12.22 - Pay revision for wet sweepers – muster roll

There are 8 wet sweepers and their pay has been recently raised by the Management based on the nature of their work. Currently they are paid Nu 286 per day. The revised pay approved by the Management is Nu 500 per day. For 8 sweepers, the total cost is Nu 120,000 per annum.

Decision

The pay revision has been endorsed as Nu 500 per day by the Tshogde. Those workers are not allowed to carry out any other private works illegally. They will have to carry out regular preventive maintenance works and not only when the problem arises.

Action: Sewerage section/Finance section

Agenda 12.23 – Procurement of water pumps

The Water Section of the Thromde submitted to the Tshogde that these pumps will be kept as spare to be used during emergencies. The 2 number of pumps for swimming pool pump

station, 1 for Changbangdu pump station and 1 for Dzong tank will have to be procured. The total amount for these pumps is Nu 1,039,290.00.

Discussion

The Chair informed that after the commission of the Dodeyna water supply system, it can easily service Changzamtog and Hospital areas without any pumps. Therefore, the pumps will have been procured for no use later. In support of this view, many other members said that it would be better to procure pumps based on the needs in future.

Decision

Tshogde decide that only 1 pump for Changbangdu pump station will be procured. For other two areas, it will be discussed further and see the need once the Dodeyna water supply system has been commissioned.

Action – Water Section

Agenda 12.24 – Installation of Sachu Bumter

The water section presented to the Tshogde the proposal to install Sachu Bumter in four locations of Motithang; Dechencholing, Jungzhina and Chamgang water sources. The cost presented was Nu 70000 per piece which is to be procured from the Jikten Wangchuk Tshogpa.

Discussion

Some of the members questioned on the guarantee of water sources not drying up after the installation of Sachu Bumter. Since it is uncertain, Thromde will have to see the necessity of installing it. Some members felt the need to have it installed in water sources because it will help protect the area from floods and many other disasters that would lead to drying up of water sources but the cost they stated is bit expensive.

Decision

Tshogde decided to procure 4 Sachu Bumters at the rate of Nu 25,000 for each (Nu 100000 for 4 numbers). These will be installed in those 4 selected water sources.

Action: Water Section/Finance Section

Agenda 12.25 – Boreholes servicing, extension and new construction

The water section presented to the Tshogde the current status of boreholes within Thromde and the need to construct new and service the existing ones. There are 2 boreholes in Changjiji and 2 in Changbangdu which are working well. There is a need to service 6 boreholes which would require a sum of Nu 1272000. The extension of borehole B1 at Changbangdu is Nu 126000 and construction of new borehole (D-42mtr) at Changbangdu is Nu 588,000. The total fund required is about Nu 1986000.

Discussion

The Chair informed whether pre-financing could be done for this activity from the Thromde revenue. For this, the Finance section informed the floor that this can be reprioritized from the budget of 2018-19 FY.

Decision

Tshogde decided to pre-finance Nu 1986000 from Thromde revenue and later, the same amount will be reimbursed from 2018-19 budget.

Action – Water Section/Finance Section

Agenda 12.26 – Recruitment of Survey Engineers for ID

The Chief engineer informed the floor on the recruitment of two interns who are currently attached with ID and who have Diploma in Surveying. They will be made to work to develop an inventory system of all structures within Thromde. The Chief Engineer informed that they can be recruited as muster roll staffs.

Discussion

The survey engineer is very much required for Thromde in order to have up to date information regarding the structures within the Thromde. Many members supported the view of having survey engineers for Thromde but also questioned if Tshogde has the right to recruit directly. The Chair informed that Tshogde does not have the right to recruit directly

Decision

Tshogde decided to open vacancy to all and two survey engineers will be recruited on contract basis for a term of two years. Tshogde directed HRC to work out on the eligibility and other criteria for the post and float the vacancy announcements.

Action: HRC

Agenda 12.27 – Mini-conference table and chair for ID**Decision**

This was decided by the 15th Management, so it was not discussed in the Tshogde

Action: ID

Agenda 12.28 - Issues with substantially low bid for capital works

The Chief engineer submitted that there have been issues in the past with the contract works awarded to the lowest bid. The Officiating Executive Secretary stated that the Engineers are being trained on how to prepare tender documents and said that it is not necessary to award

works to the lowest bid. Therefore, evaluation has to be done thoroughly and award the work to the best deserving bid. It was put to Tshogde to decide on the lowest margin to be accepted for award of any tender works.

Decision

Tshogde could not decide on the lowest margin in absence of any background studies being carried out. Therefore, Tshogde directed the ID to find out and present the number of contractors who have been awarded 20% or 30% below the departmental estimate and rate their performances. Based on their performances, Tshogde will decide the margin for awarding the contract works. The ID will have to present it to next Tshogde.

Action: ID

Agenda 12.29 –2018-2019 Budget Presentation

The Finance Section presented to the Tshogde the following financial situation. There are Spillover activities of Nu 282.00 M from the FY 2017-2018. There is a proposed capital budget of Nu 202.00M for the FY 2018-2019. The total bank balance for Thromde currently is Nu 173.00 M. Therefore, there is an overage budget of about Nu 28.00M. This will have to be met from Thromde revenue. Besides, starting FY 2018-2019, Thimphu Thromde has been able to finance all its current expenditure through its internal revenue. Therefore, for the first quarter of the FY 2018-19, a sum of Nu 40.12M will have to be transferred from internal revenue. The total amount to be transferred from Thromde internal revenue to Thromde CD account is Nu 68.12M which includes overage budget of Nu 28.00M and 1st Quarter current budget of Nu 40.12M.

Discussion

The AFD informed if all the transfers to be made are cleared, the exact revenue will be made clear. The Chair also reiterated the Thromde Financial Status for the benefits of other Tshogde members to have informed decision. He also informed that the Management has decided to increase the road maintenance budget by 5.00M in addition to 5.00M budgeted already for the same. Also during the visit of Honorable Thai Prime Minister, Thromde has carried out some road maintenance works along Babesa express way and the total amount for that has come to around 5.60M. Even this expenditure of Nu 5.60M will have to be used from Thromde internal revenue.

Decision

Tshogde approved the transfer of Nu 68.12M from internal revenue to Thromde CD Account. The Tshogde also endorsed the decision of Management and decided to increase the road maintenance budget for the FY 2018-19 to Nu 10.00M (additional 5.00M) and also the use of Nu 5.60M for Chadri expenses from Thromde internal revenue.

Action: Finance Section

Agenda 12.30 – Fines Collected from Waste Management to be used for Waste Management

This was discussed in 14th Management Meeting and decided that the fines and penalty collected from wastes will be used for waste management only. The waste management activities include home composting and other related activities.

Decision

Tshogde endorsed the decision made by the Management to use the entire amount collected for waste management.

Action: ENV Division

Agenda 12.31 – Suspension of few provisions of DCR 2016

Discussion

The Officiating Executive Secretary informed the floor that there are certain provisions in Development Control Regulations (DCR) which needs to be relooked. For example the section 2.16.1 Balcony and Rabsey enclosure is one of the provisions which require reconsideration because the building constructions approved under this provision do not at all look good esthetically. The Officiating Executive Secretary presented to the Tshogde some of the pictures showing the buildings which are approved under this provision as shown below. Many members informed that such protrusion from the building does not look nice and therefore it needs to be relooked.



Decision

After a length in discussion, the Tshogde decided that such provisions to be dismissed immediately and henceforth such construction will not be allowed. Also, construction in the

setback areas will not be allowed and should be monitored strictly however, such provisions in the core area due to safety reasons will be dealt as the case warrants.

Action

Executive Secretary to issue order on Monday 3rd September 2018 itself and DRD for strict compliance

Agenda 12.32- Additional fund Requirement for footpath along express way

The site engineer requested Tshogde for sanction of Nu 2.00M as an additional budget for the construction of footpath along the express way. The construction of footpath was funded by GoI under the SDP II. The additional fund he said is to pay the contractor's final bill.

Decision

The Tshogde decided to use Nu 2.00M from the savings of the current spillover activities of the FY 2017-18 which has a budget of Nu 282.00M. If there is no budget balance from these spillover activities, then it will have to be put to next Tshogde for approval to meet it from the revenue.

Action: Site Engineer and Finance Section

Agenda 12.33 – Construction of permanent works for Babesa E4 road to be financed from internal revenue

The Chair informed the floor that the construction of permanent works for Babesa E4 areas road will have to be financed from the internal revenue. This will also benefit the 26 HHs in the area. The amount comes to around Nu 36.00M. It will be pre-financed from the reserve fund and will be reimbursed the same amount from the budget for the FY 2019-2020.

Decision

Tshogde decided to pre-finance Nu 36.00M for the work and the same amount will be reimbursed from the 2019-20 budget.

Action: ID and Finance Section

Agenda 12.34 – Thromde Entertainment Licensing Committee**Discussion**

This was shared as information for the members of Tshogde and also for compliance. Before, the entertainment license renewal was done by BICMA, however it is now transferred to the Ministry of Economic Affairs. According to the guidelines developed by the Ministry, Thromde will have to form a committee for entertainment license renewal and inspection. The committee will be known as Entertainment Licensing Committee.

Decision

Tshogde decided to form the Entertainment Licensing Committee. The committee shall include Thrompon as Chairman, ICT Officer as member secretary, one member from among Thromde Thuemi (Norzin Thuemi was nominated) and a member each from Department of Trade and Royal Bhutan Police. The ICT will have to list down all entertainment centers within Thromde.

Action: ICT Officer

Agenda 12.35 –Payment of CITYNET membership fees

Thimphu Thromde has been a member for CITYNET for many years now and has been receiving various supports in terms of human resource development. The membership fee is USD 1300 per year. Thimphu Thromde has not paid for the two consecutive years, 2017 and 2018. For two years, a total of USD 2600 have to be paid by Thromde.

Decision

Tshogde approved the amount of USD 2600 to be paid from Thromde revenue as a membership fee for CITYNET for the years 2017 and 2018. Tshogde also directed AFD to budget the membership fee payments for both CITYNET and ICLEI from next FY.

Action: Finance Section

Agenda 12.36 – Presentation of Auction sales record

The Chief ADM Officer presented to the Tshogde the auction sales record that was held recently. He informed that many heavy vehicles could not be sold except for few light vehicles. This was decided by the Management to be auctioned at the scrape rate. The same was put to Tshogde for endorsement.

Decision

The Tshogde decided to sell the rest at the scrape rate except for one which can be repaired and use for some other purposes. The Tshogde also decided that crash barriers which are broken could be sold in the coming auction at the scrape rate.

Action: AFD

Agenda 12.37 – Contract Term Extension for JDWPL Employees

The three employees who are on contract are recruited for the JDWPL SDP project. Since the project is complete, their contract could not be extended. The JDWPL librarian submitted that if their contract is not extended, the JDWPL will have human resource shortages and won't be able to render public services. Currently JDWPL has two library assistants who are supported by these three contract employees.

Decision

Tshogde approved the extension of the contract term for the three existing contract employees for a period of two years with financial support from internal revenue.

Action: HRO and Finance Section

Agenda 12.38 - ToR for JDWPL Committee

Decision

Tshogde directed the Management to approve it. JDWPL will have to put to next Management Meeting.

Action: JDWPL Librarian

Agenda 12.39 – EMD forfeiture of M/S KST Laundry

During the tender for Parking Fee collection within Thromde, M/S KST Laundry has bid substantially high and the contract was awarded to him. High bid was in terms of generating revenue through parking fee collection. However, later he said that it was by mistake he has put the amount and therefore won't be able to pay the said amount and wanted to withdraw. According to the rules and regulations, if the contractor withdraws after having awarded the contract, their EMD will be forfeited. Therefore his EMD was forfeited. He has approached the management to reconsider the decision of the forfeiture of EMD. The EMD was about 0.16M. It is put to Tshogde for reconsideration.

Discussion

The issue was discussed in length. However, since the procurement rules stipulates that when the potential winning bidder withdraws his bid after the issuance of the letter of intent, there is no room for negotiations but to forfeit the bid security. Moreover, there are audit issues for non-forfeiture of the bid security for similar cases. Thus it would not be wise to consider the case.

Decision

Tshogde decided to go by the Procurement rules and decided that 2% EMD of M/S KST Laundry which comes to around 0.16M, remains forfeited.

Action: Parking Section, ID

Agenda 12.40 – Pedestrianization of Norzin Lam – A letter from Cabinet

This was shared as information for the members of the Tshogde. Thimphu Thromde received a letter from Cabinet vide letter No C-3/165/1009 dated 7th August 2018 regarding the suspension of Norzin Lam pedestrianization. The letter stated that until proper pedestrian structures are in place, pedestrianizing Norzin Lam will have to be suspended. Members also discussed that Thromde has already decided not to pedestrianize Norzin Lam completely but will remove parking spaces to construct the common service duct and simultaneously allow cars to pass through with facility to stop over for few minutes.

Agenda 12.41 – Implementation of Signage guidelines

The UPD has presented to the Tshogde the implementation of signage guideline. A task force consisting of eight members, six from Thromde and one each from BICMA and Dzongkha

Development Commission has been formed. He informed that the site verifications will be carried out Demkhong wise starting from Dechencholing to Babesa. The first pilot basis signage guideline compliance will be carried out in Dechencholing by the task force.

Once the guideline has been implemented, in future the building and sanitary inspectors will be the task force in implementing the signage guidelines for whom the technical backstopping will be provided if required. The UPD also informed that any defaulter will be levied fines and penalties at first and for the second time, their Occupancy certificate will not be renewed.

Discussion

The Norzin Thuemi also pointed out if erection of national flags in shops during various National celebrations could be included in this guideline, but other members said it can be monitored on spot since it's erected for few times a year only. The thuemis also shared that signage with LED lightings along Norzin Lam also will have to be looked at.

Decision

Tshogde decided 3 months' time from the date of issuance of notifications be given for the compliance with this guideline. Tshogde also decided Building inspector and Dzongkha Coordinator who will be recruited soon will be the task force later to monitor the signage guideline compliance.

Action: UPD

Agenda 12.42 – Initiation of Norzin Lam Pedestrianization as a pilot project during Thimphu Tshechu

The UPD presented that Norzin Lam Urban Design has been complete and would like to implement Phase-I during Thimphu Tshechu from BOD gate to main traffic. The table below shows the proposed activities:

Sl.No	Activities	Classification
1.	Promotion	Financial Institution, Private Company, Film Industry, Culture and tradition
2.	Entertainment and Sports	Culture program, Street performer, Yoga, Aerobic, Sports, Kids Play
3.	Awareness	NORZIN LAM DESIGN, Law, rule, program, Guidelines, Education, health
4.	Food and Clothing Stalls	Food items, Clothing, traditional Handicraft,

Discussion

The Norzin thuemi stated that it is in fact a very good idea and would also help maintain cleanliness in the area. However, the people along Norzin Lam are very much interested in

displaying their sales as usual along the road. He said that people have already prepared for the day. Therefore, it would be very difficult to convince people.

Other members said that Thromde will have to inform the public through print media and Bhutan Broadcasting Service. The Royal Bhutan Police will be contacted to stop people from bringing out sales outside their shops along Norzin Lam. Some members also suggested that it would be better if stalls are not allowed along Norzin Lam but if they agree, the Changlingmethang parking spaces can be allowed for the stalls. Many members supported the view of having totally unique activities along Norzin Lam rather than just stalls.

Decision

The proposal of UPD has been approved by Tshogde and decided to implement this year during Thimphu Tshechu time (3 days). No shops/stalls along Norzin will be allowed during Thimphu Tshechu holidays. No shopkeepers along Norzin Lam will be allowed to display their products outside their shop. Stalls will be allowed in Changlingmethang parking space only. The fees for rental of spaces at Changlingmethang parking area will be Nu 500/- for three days. Inspectors along with Royal Bhutan Police will monitor the Norzin Lam for compliance and they will be paid overtime payment.

Action: UPD

Agenda 12.43 – MLCP construction status and time extension

According to the Concession Agreement, the MLCP1 near Zangdogpelri complex will have to be completed by 5th November 2017 and MLCP2 near BOD by 2nd July 2017. The penalty for failure to complete on time for MLCP1 comes to around Nu 480,000 and for MLCP2, it is Nu 300,000. The cost for the project has been doubled due to additional activities. Earlier cost for the project was over Nu 400M. Since there is cost escalation and additional activities, the project could not be completed in two years as proposed. Therefore, KCR, concessionaire is requesting Thromde for time extension of 126 days from MLCP1 and 244 days for MLCP2.

Discussion

The Chair explained that the earlier estimated amount for the construction of the 2 MLCPs is Nu 450M and due to incorporation of various additional activities and incorporating all modern features, the amount has gone up to about Nu 800M. Therefore, they could not complete the said works within the set deadline. Thus the time extension may be considered based on the cost overrun. But the members, although acknowledging the cost overrun said that, the pace of the construction was lackluster and hardly any workers were seen at sites. Moreover, the construction sites being in the heart of the town, the situation are known to almost everybody and hence the time extension could not be supported. Some of the members said that more laborers will have to be put at sites to complete the works on time. Some members also shared that they will have to be levied some amount of penalty as per the terms and condition of the concession agreement. The concessionaire can however, appeal to the higher authorities for waiver of the penalties imposed.

Decision

The Tshogde decided that the hindrances as admissible should be worked out first to arrive at the revised completion dates for both the MLCPs individually. Then apply the penalty clause and work out the penalty amount. Thereafter, the revenue losses (opportunity costs) should be applied and write formally to KCR to pay the amount without further delay. However, the Tshogde decided the timeline to be extended till December 2018.

Action: ID

Agenda 12.44 – Supplementary budget for Changbangdu ring road

It has been found out during site visit by a team consisting of Thrompon, Executive Secretary, Chief Engineer and site engineers that more walls will have to be constructed in various locations. Since its GoI-SDP fund, it will have to be exhausted by September 2018 and the fund will have to be surrendered to GNHC if it is not being spent. Therefore, it will have to be given to the current contract. The contract amount of the additional activities is over Nu 10.64M.

Discussion

The Chief Engineer also informed that while comparing all the rates for construction of RRM wall amongst past and present contractors, it was found out that the current contractor who is involved in Changbangdu ring road construction is low. However, the decision to award the work directly to this contractor will have to come through Tender committee. Tender meetings are convened every Friday, however on 31st August 2018, Friday; it coincided with 12th Tshogde and therefore could not be convened. And submitting to next Tshogde could mean waiting for another two months. Hence it was submitted to the 15th Management Meeting and through Management, it was submitted to Tshogde.

Decision

The Tshogde decided that the additional works amounting to about Nu 10.64M will be awarded directly to the current contractor since it is a time bound project and the fund will have to be exhausted by September 2018 and also the rate for RRM wall construction has been found low for him (the present contractor) compared to other contractors.

Action: ID

AOB

1. **Payment of bill amount of about Nu 51,030** - The Chief ADM Officer proposed to the Management the payment of Nu 51030 from Thromde revenue. The amount was used for providing refreshments (Tea and Momo) for 80 heads during 17th December 2017 for 8 days. This was initiated in all Constituencies within Thimphu Thromde to celebrate the National Day. Tshogde approved the bill payment of Nu 51,030 from Thromde revenue.

Action – DCAO

2. **PSL Thromde committee** – Priority Sector Lending (PSL) is a new initiative taken by the Royal Government of Bhutan to help Bhutanese people to set up small businesses and to contribute to economy building of Bhutan. As per the directives of RMA, Thimphu Thromde has a committee formed to facilitate the PSL applicants to avail PSL loans. Thromde is required to provide them with location clearances for the business that they are proposing. As a requirement, the applicants are required to submit duly filled under taking form for location clearances in which the concerned Thromde thuemi will have to sign. Therefore, it was shared as information for the Tshogde members to kindly facilitate in providing necessary support and guidance to the applicants. RMA in near future will also train the committee. The Chair informed all Thuemis and Thromde Officials to support the initiative and also include Thuemis during the training session conducted by RMA.

Action: Thuemis and Committee

3. **Agenda submission** – All agenda, both for Management and Tshogde will have to be submitted either through an email or in writing, signed on or before the said date. This is to help coordinator maintain official documents related to meetings and also to distribute the agenda at least a day before the meeting is convened. The Tshogde decided that all agenda, for both Management and Tshogde shall be submitted to the coordinator before the dateline and those submitted after the dateline will not be tabled in the meeting.

Action – All Thromde Officials, Thuemis and Planning Officer for compliances.

The 12th Thromde Tshogde adjourned at 9:00PM.

Tentative date for 13th Tshogde – 31st October 2018

Rapporteur – Karma Dorji, Planning Officer

THE END