



## AUROVILLE FOUNDATION

### MINUTES OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020: Time: 10.30 am: Through: Webinar

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#### **Opening remarks by Chairman:**

Welcomed all members specially the Joint Secretary (ICC) who joined online though indisposed. Thanked the Working Committee for their good work and raising important issues.

#### **1. Working Committee's brief presentation to the Board:**

Working Committee highlighted the following from their suggested agenda for Board's decisions

- I. the issues of TDC and to invite Dr. Balakrishnan Doshi ji
- II. Lands to be acquired in City area.
- III. Sexual Harassment Act implementation.
- IV. Working Committee thanked each member of the Board. The Working Committee also wanted to introduce FAMC issues but could not do due to lack of time.

#### **2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

The Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Board held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were *approved*.

**IFD comments:** *Subject to strict compliance of the related Govt. of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the minutes may be confirmed.*

#### **3. Action taken on the Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

- (i) The Action Taken Report was noted.
- (ii) The action taken at no. 6 of the Minutes on "Tamil Heritage Centre": It is also noted that Dr. Prema Nandakumar reported that  
  
"She had finalized and sent a note and a write up about the Tamil Heritage Centre (THC) to the Chairman, the Secretary and the Under Secretary of the Auroville Foundation on 23.04.2018. As no proposal or recommendation from any one on this subject was received that proposal is final.

Regarding the suggestion to recommend a name for the post of "Director" for the THC, She found that none was willing to recommend a name" (which was inadvertently omitted by the Secretary-In-Charge).

(iii) The Board reminded the Secretary-in-Charge that the report on 12(e) of the minutes of 55<sup>th</sup> GB meeting has to be submitted.

(iv) It was suggested to tabulate all the pending issues from the previous (last 4 years) meeting minutes along with the action to be taken which can be circulated to the new Board.

#### 4. Liaison Office at Delhi :

Item withdrawn

#### 5. 33<sup>rd</sup> Finance Committee:

Minutes of the Finance Committee were approved *by the Board*.

**IFD comments:** *Subject to strict compliance of the related Govt. of India instructions and guidelines including those issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, the minutes may be confirmed.*

#### 6. Grant-in-Aid for 2019-20 & 2020-21:

##### Revised Estimate (RE) 2020-21 and Budget Estimate (BE) 2021-22

						(` In Crore)
Sl.No.	Object Head	Actual 2019-20	BE 2020-21	Actuals upto 9/2020	Proposed RE 2020-21	Proposed BE 2021-22
1	Capital OH-35	8.24	11.00	1.02	5.00	11.00
2	General OH-31	4.83	5.20	1.01	2.50	5.00
3	Salary OH-36	1.59	2.00	0.95	1.70	2.30
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14.66</b>	<b>18.20</b>	<b>2.98</b>	<b>9.20</b>	<b>18.30</b>

Governing Board in principle approved the RE and BE as above and noted that the Working Committee has to submit the detailed proposals to the Secretary, AF for scrutiny and recommending to the Ministry. Henceforth all disbursements to the approved items of the expenditure of the Working Committees budget will be made

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directly by the office of the Secretary. The budget of the Working Committee will be routed through and monitored by the Foundation Secretariat. No lump sum instalment will be given to the Working Committee or any other group on the general expenditure. Capital works grant will have to be disbursed strictly according to the GFR. However, this should not lead to avoidable delay in releasing funds.

**7. Interim Report of Light for All Pour Tous Task Force (APTTF) of the Resident's Assembly:**

Noted by the Board

**8. Land Matters & TDC : Development of Auroville Township**

There are very important issues which have been of serious concern of the Board. The present proposals are recommended for taking necessary action by the new Board and the Ministry as deemed appropriate.

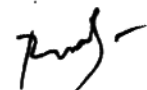
**IFD comments:** *No land belonging to the Government or any of its bodies including autonomous bodies, PSUs etc shall be sold without previous sanction of the Government (Rules 209 of GFRs, 2017). Also, in terms of the instructions issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, vide their O.M No. 7(2)/E.Coord/2020 dated 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, at present, there is complete ban on creation of posts in autonomous bodies etc except with the approval of the Department of Expenditure.*

**The proposals need to be examined in the Ministry of Education, as per the extant Government of India rules.**

**9. On Administration and Governance:**

The recommendations of the Oversight Committee have already been noted by the Governing Board in the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting. The actionable points as listed under (i) Administrative measures (ii) on Auroville Township Land (iii) on Auroville Township Planning and Development (iv) on Auroville Economy can be initiated which should have been taken up earlier except the proposal of appointment of CFO that may be referred to the new Governing Board.

**IFD comments:** *A detailed proposal may be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for consideration.*



## 10. On Internal Audit:

Board approved the proposal that the Internal Audit for GoI grants and other trusts/ units as may be necessary can be taken up by the AF Secretariat

**IFD comments:** Selection of C&AG empanelled Auditor may be done as per the relevant provisions of GFRs, 2017 and CVC guidelines.

## 11. Establishment Matters:-

### (i) The CAG Audit Paras for Ratifications:

The CAG Audit Paras could not be discussed, may be considered by circulation to the Board.

Note: This part is removed due to internal matter of the office of the Auroville Foundation.

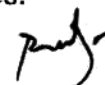
### (iii) Issue of Donation Receipts:

This has been noted and approved by the Board that the Secretariat has to issue the receipts centrally from the office of the Secretary, AF. The single account of Foundation through which all donations can be received may be studied further. Members emphasized the concern and the need for accountability towards the utilizations of donations and its bearing on the overall Income Tax Exemption under 10 (23C) (IV) which is currently at the appeal stage with Income Tax Department.

Chairman felt that this matter needs to be considered further as it should not adversely affect the aurovilian's fund-raising ability. It is useful to remember that they raise over 90 % of the annual budget, the GoI grants represent less than 10%.

### (iv) Deputation of Administrative/ Senior Officials:

This is part of the staff requirement which is still pending with Ministry. The Board recommends that this may be taken up with Ministry as the Secretariat has to be strengthened to attend to many statutory responsibilities.



**12. Items proposed by the Working Committee:**

Notes/ advice from the Board on their proposal is enclosed

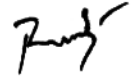
**13. Any other matters with the permission of the Chair:**

Closing remarks by the Chairman.

In closing the Chairman thanked all the Board members individually for their cooperation and valuable contribution to the work of the Board over the last four years. He also appreciated the Secretary-In-Charge for having single handedly held the fort in the absence of a full-time Secretary.

The Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

Countersigned

  
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Secretary-In-Charge

## **Notes/ advice from the Board on the proposals of the Working Committee for decision**

The Board noted the report of the Working Committee on many issues especially the careful management of COVID-19 situation which is kept well under control. It is observed that some of the statutory regulations/ orders have to be respected and followed by the Resident's Assembly and the Working Committee and not to still deliberate or reconsider at their level of Assembly, especially on matters of 'Admission & Termination of Persons in the Register of Residents Regulations 2020', Sexual Harassment Act, etc.

1. Chairman had already written to the Ministry about the reconstitution of International Advisory Council.
2. Enquiry report is under the consideration of the Ministry.
- 3, 4 & 5. The functioning of the TDC with two members and not being functional is of serious concern and the Board directs the Working Committee to urgently constitute a fully functional TDC to implement the Master Plan with the support of the concerned departments of the Tamil Nadu State Government.

The new Governing Board may take up this important task to guide the Working Committee and the Residents Assembly to realize the Township as per the Gazetted Master Plan.

6. The Governing Board does not need to issue another order for implementation, as the Act is in force already, but it has to be

implemented. The Secretariat may take legal advice as may be necessary.

7. Ministry officials have confirmed that the Amendments to Auroville Foundation Rules 1997 are under active consideration.

The proposed Amendments to the Foundation Act to include a senior official from the Tamil Nadu Government has been considered to be useful and appropriate for Auroville. Secretary-In-Charge has been directed to submit the proposal along with earlier proposal to have a member-Secretary, to the Ministry.

8. The Board felt creation of new trusts should be avoided and the City trust proposal may be studied and referred to the new Board.

9. Creation of Farm trust is not approved and the existing farms may be grouped under the service trust where another farm unit and Food-link unit are functioning.

10. Aquadyn: It was noted with appreciation that the unit Aquadyn has obtained an international patent for their "dynamization of water". The proposal of the unit to liquidate part of the patent, is considered to be in the normal course of their business, but since being under the umbrella of the Foundation requires a formal 'no objection'. The Board in principle convey their 'no objection' subject to the condition that no liabilities will accrue to the Foundation, which is as per the office order constituting the unit. A legal opinion may be obtained from the Foundation's advocate for record.

