



Decision List BC Minutes January 28, 2025

Subtitle	Weekly BC meeting
Date	01/28/2025
Time	9:00 – 12:00
Location	Courtroom
Chair	Governor Johnson
Attendees	Eviton Heyliger, Jonathan Johnson and Bruce Zagers

1.0.0 Welcome

2.0.0 Minutes

Attachment:

BC Meeting Minutes 21.01.2025

BC Minutes 03.2025

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.0 Discussion papers

3.0.1 BC Proposal Free Allowance Social Domain Budget 2025

The free allowance budget for Social Domain funds is reserved yearly locally and this year additional funds for poverty reduction and energy savings for low-income were received from the Ministry of SZW.

We would like to advise for the use of the budget funds

2025 totaling **social domain \$269,545. Social Domain**

Breakdown

The budget for the Social Domain is used to cover salary costs. This budget will also be used for work-related travel for the department head. Representation costs will be used for team-building purposes within the department as well as hosting stakeholders. Also included in this budget is a subsidy for the project bureau, this will be presented separately.



Decision:

Approved.

3.0.4 BC Free Allowance Poverty Policy Budget 2025

In 2025 we have funding from the free allowance budget reserved for poverty reduction in which we also received from the Ministry of SZW funding to further alleviate poverty as well as to continue with our energy saving efforts for low-income households.

This year we would like to continue with our efforts to reduce poverty on Saba as well create more opportunities for awareness by providing information to clients to empower them to make more sustainable decisions. As our poverty policy from 2022 is quite outdated, we are in the process of updating our policy with an island ordinance together with the help of an organization in the Netherlands known as Stimulanz.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.5 2025 Free Allowance Employment Opportunities

For the new financial year, 2025, we would like to share our department's plans for the available budget for Employment Opportunities and labor market integration.

The Community Development and Culture Department closely collaborates with Saba Reach Foundation on labor market integration, with the Saba Reach Foundation implementing the program that supports meaningful and sustainable employment for up to 35 social work clients. Clients have access to job coaches for personalized guidance within both the sheltered Social Work program and in the general labor market. The program aims to transition 5-7 participants annually into regular employment. Additionally, Skills Development workshops are offered to enhance participants' employability through training in areas such as workplace etiquette and CV writing.

This BC proposals serves to seek approval to allocate the budget as outlined in the Multi-Annual Budget 2025, which sets the budget for Employment Opportunities is US\$ 472.000. This is the same amount as in 2024, only including the subsidy given to Saba Reach Foundation.



Decision:

Approved.

3.0.6 2nd Public Transport Driver

Building on the success of our first public transport vehicle, we have seen a significant increase in passenger demand, necessitating the addition of a second vehicle to better serve the Saban community. The purchase of this additional vehicle, already approved under dossier 606 (Attachment 2), is expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

To accommodate this growth, we are seeking a second driver to operate parallel routes alongside the current bus. This role will also include introducing routes at varying times of the day to enhance accessibility and meet the needs of the community more effectively.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.7 4th Quarter Implementation Report & IC Proposal

The submission of this report is a requirement under FINBES guidelines, ensuring transparency and a current view of our financial status. It allows for any necessary adjustments to be made in line with evolving fiscal conditions.

This process supports good governance by fostering accountability, financial oversight, and informed decision-making. Timely submission ensures continued compliance with regulatory standards and upholds best practices in financial management.

Decision:

Approved.

3.0.8 Airport Security Training – New Officers

Two newly recruited airport security officers require mandatory Aviation Security Basic Training (AVSec Basic Training). This training is a critical step to ensure the officers are equipped with the necessary skills and certification to perform their duties effectively and securely.

The proposed training will cover AVSec Basic Training as required under ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) guidelines.



Tentative Date for training –week of Feb 24.

In 2024, payment was made for 10 persons to attend the course which there is a remainder balance space for 4 persons to attend, an internal research will be undertaken for other employees interested in airport security that could potentially assist when needed.

Decision:

Approved.

3.1.0 Enrichment Center – Budget and Design Contract

In September 2024, Saba was granted EUR 5 million from the 5th RegioDeal to build an Enrichment Center in St. Johns.

The Enrichment center will serve as a hub for residents and organizations, addressing the current limited availability of facilities, and enhancing developmental opportunities for both children and adults. The Enrichment Center will be able to host a range of cultural activities such as dance, seminars surrounding nature, heritage and culture, adult education and afterschool programs.

In this proposal we have included the budget allocation for the realization of the Enrichment Center and the allocation for the Development Programs.

As we have received the funds, we can start the design process of the Enrichment Center. We would like to grant the assignment for the design to the firm Lyongo Architecture. The received quotation fits the budget.

Decision:

Approved.

3.1.1 Learning and Development Specialist role – HRM

HRM are seeking approval to recruit a learning and development specialist to lead on the execution of the L&D program and all L&D related activities for the PES.

Decision:

Approved.



3.1.6

Second Half of 2024 Payment for Blues and Blues

At the end of 2023, Public Entity Saba received a subsidy amount of \$1 million on its free allowance for the purpose of connectivity between the islands of Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten. The intention of the funds was to continue the pilot ferry service of the Makana ferry for an additional 2 years, i.e. 2024 and 2025.

Because the previous PSO expired, the Public Entities Saba and St. Eustatius have been in continued negotiations with Blues and Blues for the signing of a new PSO for the Makana ferry service. As part of that process, a deep dive of the financial administration of the Makana ferry service was conducted and concluded in November 2024, which indicated that the financial management of Blues & Blues was in order. After receiving the deep dive report, the Steering Committee reconvened in December 2024 to finalize negotiations for the PSO and to deliberate on the fee structure for 2025. It is the intention that the agreement is signed in Q1 of 2025, after exploring if additional subsidy can be provided in order to prevent a rate increase.

It was agreed upon in the steering committee meeting on January 17th, 2025, to transfer a second advance payment to Blues and Blues for the remaining 6 months of service in 2024, deducting any owed departure fees for both Public Entities up to November 2024.

Decision:

Approved.

3.1.7

SKJ Subsidy to Saba Reach Foundation

The Community Development and Culture Department closely collaborates with Saba Reach Foundation. The Saba Reach Foundation requested a subsidy of \$275,000 to implement the SKJ/Replay program, with the goal of supporting youth between 12 and 18 years with attachment problems that can affect a student's academic performance. The Ministry of OCW has approved of this subsidy request, confirming upcoming transfer of \$ 281,754.

This BC proposals serves to seek approval to allocate the budget for the



SKJ/Replay program. It will be transferred to Saba Reach Foundation for program implementation in 2 instalments: \$100,000 pre-financing and the remaining

\$175,000 upon receiving the funds from the Ministry of OCW.

The remaining balance of \$6,754 is used to cover bank transfer fees and fluctuations in the EUR-USD exchange rate. The remainder will be transferred to Saba Reach Foundation after the exact exchange rate and bank transfer fees are known.

This proposal requests approval for transferring subsidy to Saba Reach Foundation for implementation of the SKJ program in 2025.

Decision:

Approved.

3.1.9

Transfer Johnson property Black Rocks Harbor

On March 5, 2022, Public Entity Saba signed a land purchase agreement with Arthur Garvice Johnson for a parcel of land, in the district of Giles Quarter with an area of 5,602m². Public Entity Saba will use this land for the construction of Black Rocks Harbor and associated land-side facilities.

Notary Bouterse has prepared the deed of transfer, which is ready for signing. PES will pay the land purchase price by placing the amount at the full disposal of Arthur Johnson on the escrow account of Notary Office St. Eustatius & Saba. PES should also pay the notary's invoice prior to signing of the deed.

Decision:

Approved.

4.0.0

Formalities

5.0.0

Incoming pieces/request (on paper)

6.0.0

Announcements

1. Governor Johnson
2. Commissioner Zagers



- 3. Commissioner Heyliger
- 4. Island Secretary Streppel

7.0.0 Signature

8.0.0 Closing

9.0.0 10:30 Update on Substance Abuse Taskforce – Michelle & Menno (+/- 30 mins.)