

**BELIZE:**

**VILLAGE COUNCILS (MARKET AND SLAUGHTER HOUSE)**

**BY - LAWS, 2004**

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FIRST SCHEDULE

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**BELIZE:**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**No. 189 of 2004**

*BY-LAWS made by the Village Councils in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by section 23 of the Village Councils Act, Chapter 88 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000-2003, and all other powers thereunto them enabling.*

*(Gazetted 27th November, 2004.)*

**PART 1**

**PRELIMINARY**

1. These By-laws may be cited as the

Short title.

**VILLAGE COUNCILS (MARKET AND  
SLAUGHTER HOUSE) BY-LAWS, 2004.**

2. In these By-laws, unless the context otherwise requires-

Interpretation.

“Clerk” means the Clerk of the Market and Slaughter House;

“Council” or “Village Council” means a village council established and constituted under the Village Councils Act or any regulations made thereunder;

CAP. 88.

“meat” includes turtle but does not include imported preserved meat contained and sold in airtight tins or barrels, fish or poultry;

“village” means any place duly declared or defined to be a village within the meaning of section 3 of the Village Councils Act.

CAP. 88.

- Application.** 3. These By-laws shall have effect within the limits of any village in Belize.

**PART II**  
**PUBLIC MARKET**

- Sale of meat.** 4. (1) No fresh meat of cattle, swine, goat or sheep shall be sold in a village unless it shall have been first slaughtered at the Slaughter House according to its rules and regulations and exposed for sale at the Market.

(2) Where it is considered necessary or desirable that such meat from outside the village shall be allowed to be sold locally then it shall be first passed by an approved health inspector, and then exposed for sale in the Market by a licensed butcher as if the animal had been slaughtered at the Slaughter House, subject to the payment of Slaughter House and Market fees.

- Stalls.** 5. The Market shall be fitted with stalls which shall be numbered with distinguishing numbers and shall be appropriated for the sale of meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, groceries, bread, confectionery and such other articles as the Council may determine and may be let -r by the day, at the rate specified in the First Schedule to these By-laws, to persons or firms approved by the Clerk subject to these By-laws.
- First Schedule.**

- One stall per person.** 6. (1) No person or firm shall, except by permission granted by resolution of the Council, directly or indirectly hold more than one stall in the Market or sublet the same to another person or firm.

(2) Stalls shall be rented only to those who occupy them personally or by an agent on their behalf who does not rent or manage any other stall in the Market.

- Maintenance of stalls.** 7. Persons renting or occupying any market stall shall keep the stall, together with the fixtures, fittings and appurtenances to the stall, clean and in proper order and shall be responsible for any damage to the stall other than by fair wear

and tear and shall not without permission in writing from the Clerk affix extra fixtures or lights and leave any food material in or on it.

8. All rents shall be payable in advance.

**Rent.**

9. No person shall sell any article on the Market premises otherwise proper stall or place set apart for such purpose by the Village Council.

**Sale of goods.**

10. (1) The Market shall be lighted and the stall-holders and their assistants admitted to their stalls at 5 a.m. daily (except Sunday).

**Hours of  
opening of  
Market.**

(2) The Market shall not be opened to the general public or for business purposes until 5.30 a.m. daily (except Sunday).

(3) Meat stalls may be opened daily (except Sunday) at 5.30 a.m. and may be closed as soon as all the meat being exposed on the meat stalls shall have been sold or otherwise disposed of.

(4) On Saturdays meat stalls may be re-opened at 2 p.m.

11. A stall may be opened at 5.30 a.m. daily (except Sunday) and shall be closed at 6 p.m.

**Hours of  
business.**

12. On all public holidays the Market shall be closed for all purposes at 11 a.m.

**Public  
holidays.**

13. No livestock except poultry or game shall be brought into the market.

**Livestock.**

14. All meat brought into the Market for sale (other than meat which has been previously examined at the Slaughter House) shall forthwith be submitted for examination, and shall be examined, by the Clerk.

**Examination  
of meat.**

**Suspected  
meat.**

15. If on the examination referred to in By-law 14 any meat shall have any appearance of disease or unsoundness, the Clerk shall notify the owner of the meat and unless and until such meat shall have been approved by a medical officer of health such meat shall not be offered for sale.

**Unwholesome  
food, etc.**

**CAP. 40.**

16. (1) No person shall expose for sale, or have in his or her possession in the Market any bad or unwholesome meat, fish, fruit or vegetables and any such food may be dealt with under the Public Health Act.

(2) All meat not sold by 6 p.m. must be removed from the Market.

(3) No meat left over from the previous day shall be sold on the stalls, except that, when an overdue amount of meat is likely to be left over, the permission of the Village Council through the Clerk, shall be obtained to keep it on ice; such permission will only be granted in exceptional cases, and where such permission has been granted, the meat so kept shall be sold as "Frozen Meat" as referred to in By-law 27 (d) of these By-laws.

(4) In the event of the possibility of an undue amount of fresh meat remaining unsold, it shall be permissible for the butcher to salt and corn such meat provided such salting and corning shall be done before 12 noon; the meat shall be removed each day from the stalls to the room provided for the purpose of storage and such corned meat shall only be brought into the stalls for weighing and selling.

**Dogs  
prohibited.**

17. (1) No dogs shall be allowed in the Market.

(2) If any dog is found in the market, the owner of the dog shall be deemed to have committed an offence against these By-laws.

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 18. A receptacle shall be provided by the Council for rubbish and refuse and no rubbish or refuse shall be thrown or deposited in the Market, except in such receptacle.   | Rubbish etc.,<br>in Market.          |
| 19. Any lessee or stall-holder soiling the Market shall immediately thereafter thoroughly wash and clean the soiled part of the Market.  | Cleaning<br>Market.                  |
| 20. No barrels, blocks, or other private property shall be permitted to be placed in or about the Market, other than such as may be deemed requisite by the Clerk for stall-holders in the pursuit of their business and the barrel, block, or private property placed in or about the Market shall at all times be kept covered and cleaned to the satisfaction of the Clerk. | Private<br>property.                 |
| 21. No quarrelsome or riotous conduct, swearing, obscene language, indecency or impropriety of any kind shall be committed or used in the Market.  | Improper<br>behaviour.               |
| 22. No person shall smoke or spit in the Market.   | Smoking or<br>spitting in<br>Market. |
| 23. The Clerk shall not directly or indirectly be concerned in the buying (except for the use of his household), or selling of any article exposed for sale in the Market.   | Clerk not to<br>trade.               |
| 24. The Clerk shall attend at the Market as required by the Council and shall be in Market. responsible for the maintenance of order and the general management of the Market.   | Attendance of<br>Clerk 24.           |
| 25. No person shall loiter about, sit or lie on any of the stalls in or about the Market and any person engaging in such conduct commits an offence and may be ejected from the Market by the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk (if any), or any Police Officer.  | Loitering.                           |
| 26. No stall-holder or person in the employ of a stall-holder shall either directly or indirectly, solicit any person to make a purchase at any place within the Market beyond the limits of such stall-holder's stall.  | Soliciting.                          |



Offences in  
connection  
with meat.

27. Any person who shall at any stall in the Market sell or offer connection for sale-

- (a) any part of a loggerhead turtle at the same time and at the same stall at which he is selling or offering or exposing. for sale any part of a greenturtle;
- (b) Any part of a turtle unless a legible notice is exhibited in a conspicuous place on such stall stating the kind of turtle offered for sale, namely, greenturtle, hawksbill, or loggerhead;
- (c) any part of a sheep or goat unless a legible. notice is exhibited in a conspicuous place on such stall stating the kind of mutton offered for sale, namely, sheep mutton or goat mutton; or
- (d) any meat that has been frozen unless a legible notice is exhibited in a conspicuous place on such stall containing the words "Frozen Meat"

commits an offence against these By-laws.

Rent.  
First Schedule.

28. The rents specified in the First Schedule shall be paid to the Clerk.

Weighing  
meat in  
Market.

29. The weighing of meat shall be done by the owner or his agent in the presence of the Clerk or his representative and according to the Clerk's directions.

Penalty  
relating to  
Market  
offences.

30. (1) Any person committing an offence against any of these By-laws relating to the Market shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars and in the event of a continuing offence to a further penalty not exceeding ten dollars for each day on which such offence is continued.

(2) The tenancy of a person convicted under Sub-By-Law (1) may be determined by the Council and no part of the rent paid shall be refunded unless the Council by resolution directs a refund.

(3) If the Council determines any tenancy under Sub-By-Law (2), it may declare the lessee or stall-holder to be disqualified from holding any stall for such period as the Council may determine not exceeding six months.

### **PART III** **SLAUGHTER HOUSE**

31. No person shall kill or slaughter any animal or turtle the flesh of which is intended for human food in any place within one mile beyond the limits of the village other than in the Slaughter House, except in the case of wild animals which may be shot in the bush.

Place of  
slaughter.

32. (1) The Slaughter House shall be opened on Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on every other day of the week (except Sunday) Slaughter from 4 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hours of  
opening of  
Slaughter  
House.

(2) No animal shall be slaughtered after 4 p.m. on Saturdays or 2 p.m. on any other day of the week.

(3) A turtle may be slaughtered from 4 a.m. to 9 a.m. on every day of the week.

(4) No turtle shall be slaughtered until it has been inspected and approved the previous day by the Clerk.

33. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these By-laws, if in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health climatic conditions at any time warrant changing the hours of slaughtering from morning to evening, it shall be permissible to do so, and the hours for slaughtering in such case shall be from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Power to alter  
hours.

(2) Hours for exhibition of cattle to be slaughtered and hours for the opening and closing of the Market shall also

be altered from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., if the circumstances mentioned in Sub-By-law (1) occur.

**Licence  
required.**

34. No person shall be allowed to kill or slaughter any animal in the Slaughter House unless such person holds a licence from the Council under these By-laws.

**Licence and  
requirements  
for butcher.**

35. (1) Any person applying for a licence as a butcher shall produce to the Clerk a certificate from a medical officer of health to the effect that he has demonstrated his ability to be a butcher and on payment of twenty dollars, the Clerk shall grant such licence to the applicant.

(2) Each licensed butcher or his assistant shall possess the requisite slaughtering knives, such knives to be passed by the Medical Officer of Health and always kept sharp and in a sanitary state.

(3) Every butcher and his assistant shall be licensed annually and before being licensed each butcher or assistant shall produce a certificate from a registered medical practitioner stating that he is in a fit state of health and free from any contagious or infectious disease and that is a fit and proper person to be licensed as a butcher.

(4) Notwithstanding the possession of such a certificate, the Medical Officer of Health may, if he considers it necessary, call upon either the butcher or assistant to be examined at any time.

(5) Every person working as a butcher or butcher's assistant shall be dressed in a clean butcher's coat, apron and a suitable cap when handling meat, such cap, coat and apron to be approved by the Medical Officer of Health.

36. (1) Notwithstanding the possession of a certificate referred to in By-law 35, any butcher or butcher's assistant who is convicted by the District Magistrate for cruelty to animals while the animal is being slaughtered is liable to have his licence cancelled for six months for the first offence and on conviction for any subsequent offence to have his licence cancelled permanently.

Cancellation  
or suspension  
of licence.

(2) Any licensed butcher or butcher's assistant who is reported for uncleanliness, non-compliance with the rules or unseemly conduct, may have his licence suspended or cancelled or may be charged with an offence against these By-laws or both.

37. (1) A Register of Licensed Butchers and Butcher's Assistants shall be kept in the office of the Council.

Register of  
licensed  
butchers.

(2) The Register of Licensed Butchers and Butcher's Assistants shall be open for inspection by a medical officer of health or any sanitary officer and a copy shall be supplied to the Clerk.

38. (1) Any animal intended for slaughter shall be tied up or penned in the Slaughter House Yard in the place allotted not later than 3 p.m. on the day previous to slaughtering and shall be presented for inspection between the hours of 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. daily.

Tying up  
animals.

(2) Each licensed butcher must see that his animal is properly tied up or penned in the Slaughter House Yard and the Council shall not be responsible for the loss of any animal.

39. A Register of Weights shall be kept by the Clerk for the purpose of recording the weights of animals about to be slaughtered and the Clerk is required from time to time to inspect the Register of Weights to ensure that it is properly kept.

Register of  
weights.

**Weighing  
animals.**

40. Animals intended for slaughter shall be weighed on the weighbridge established for such purpose on the Market premises and it shall be incumbent on persons in charge of such animals, to notify the Clerk when such animals shall be weighed.

**Examination  
of animals  
and meat.**

41. The Clerk shall examine the condition of all animals brought to be slaughtered and of the meat intended to be offered for sale and if any such animal or meat shall have any appearance of disease or unsoundness he shall notify the owner of the animal or meat and unless the animal or meat shall have been approved by a medical officer of health such animal shall not be slaughtered nor shall such meat be offered for sale.

**Cleaning  
premises.**

42. Any person using the Slaughter House for killing any animal shall, immediately after slaughtering such animal thoroughly wash and clean the flooring, tables or other parts of the main building or other erection used and soiled by such killing.

**Cleaning and  
dressing  
meat.**

43. All meat shall be properly cleaned and dressed before leaving the Slaughter House and shall be covered with cloth to the satisfaction of the Clerk and conveyed in a clean contrivance suitably covered in a clean cart, van or boat.

**Entry  
restricted.**

44. No person other than a licensed butcher or butcher's assistant shall be in the Slaughter House Yard or its precincts at any time, except officers and servants of the Council and public health officers.

**Fees.  
Second  
Schedule.**

45. The fees specified in the Second Schedule shall be paid on demand to the Clerk for all animals killed at the Slaughter House.

**Weighing  
meat in  
Slaughter  
House.**

46. (1) All meat on which the fees are charged according to weight shall be weighed by the owner or his agent in the presence of the Clerk and according to the Clerk's directions.

(2) The weight of all meat except turtle shall be ascertained after the carcass has been dressed.

(3) The weight of turtle shall be ascertained before it is slaughtered.

47. No person shall smoke or spit in the Slaughter House.

**Smoking or  
spitting in  
Slaughter  
House.**

48. The Clerk shall attend at the Slaughter House as required by the Council and shall be responsible for the maintenance of order and the general management of the Slaughter House.

**Attendance of  
Clerk in  
Slaughter  
House.**

49. A receptacle shall be provided for rubbish or refuse and no rubbish or refuse shall, be thrown or deposited in or about the Slaughter House except in such receptacle.

**Rubbish, etc.,  
in Slaughter  
House.**

50. Any person committing an offence against these By-laws relating to the Slaughter House shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

**Penalty  
relating to  
Slaughter  
House  
offences.**

51. These By-laws shall be subject to the affirmative resolution of the National Assembly.

**Affirmative  
resolution.**

**MADE** by the Village Council this 19th day of October, 2004.



(ELEANOR SANDLIN)

(Chairperson)

National Association of Village Councils

## FIRST SCHEDULE

(By-laws 5 and 28)

## RENT FOR MARKET STALLS

<u>Stall</u>	<u>Rent</u>
For a Beef, Veal or Pork Stall .....	\$7.50
For Sheep, Goat and Game Stall .....	\$3.75
For Fish and Turtle Stall .....	\$5.40
Stall for sale of Dry or Corned Fish only .....	\$4.50

## NOTES

Stalls in respect of which a daily rental is not provided in the Schedule, may nevertheless be rented for a day at \$1.00 each. Furthermore, if a stall is being used as a saloon or restaurant, the rent shall be \$2.00 per day. The term "day" shall mean from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or part of such day.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

(By-law 45)

## FEES FOR USE OF SLAUGHTER HOUSE

<u>Meat</u>	<u>Rent</u>
For Beef and Calves .....	\$7.50
For Pigs .....	\$4.50
For Sheep, Lamb, Kids, Goats, Turtles and wild animals .....	\$3.00

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