

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

November 4, 2011

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

CONVENE: 11:03 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member
Councilmember Mike White, Member

STAFF: Scott Kaneshina, Legislative Analyst
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary

Ken Fukuoka, Director
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
David Raatz, Legislative Attorney
Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White
Theresa Valdez, Assistant Clerk to the County Council, Office of the County Clerk

ADMIN.: Adrienne N. Heely, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

Seated in the gallery:

Sananda K. Baz, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Jeremiah L. Savage, Deputy Director, Department of Finance
Scott K. Teruya, Administrator, Real Property Tax Division, Department of Finance

OTHERS: Warren Watanabe

PRESS: *Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.*
Ilima Loomis, The Maui News

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . .(*gavel*). . . The Budget and Finance Committee meeting is now in session. The date is November 4th, 2011. The time is 11:02. Thank you, Members, for being here. At

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this time, the Chairman would like to introduce the Members that are present. We do have Vice-Chair of the Committee, Riki Hokama.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Chairman.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Uh. . .Mr. Carroll, Ms. Baisa, Ms. Cochran, Mr. Couch, Mr. Victorino--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --Mr. White, and Chairman Mateo. From the Administration, we do have Deputy. . .Corporation Counsel Adrienne Heely.

MS. HEELY: Morning.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Morning. Supporting the Committee is Scott Kaneshina and Camille Sakamoto. Camille, do we have anybody signed up for public testimony?

MS. SAKAMOTO: No, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, having nobody signing up for public testimony, if there's no objection, Chair would like to close public testimony.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Good morning, again. Members, today we have one item posted on agenda, BF-70, relating to the disparity of real property assessments for agricultural versus non-agricultural lands.

ITEM BF-70: DISPARITY OF REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL VERSUS NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS (C.C. 11-227)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The last time this item was taken up, your Committee voted to establish a Temporary Investigative Group, TIG, as permitted by Section 92-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to make findings and recommendations on policies relating to real property assessments for agricultural versus non-agricultural use. Section 92-2.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes require that all resulting findings and recommendations be presented to the board--in this case, the Budget and Finance Committee--at a meeting of the board. Furthermore, deliberation and decision-making on the matter investigated, if any, can occur only at a duly noticed meeting of the board held by, held subsequent to the meeting at which the findings and recommendations of the investigative, investigation were presented to the board. It is the Chair's intent today, a simple, to simply receive the. . .receive public testimony--which we don't have--and allow the TIG findings and recommendations to be presented to the Budget and Finance Committee by the Temporary Investigative Group Chairman, Mr. White. I'm asking that you reserve any questions

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or comments that you may have for a subsequent committee meeting on this item. Right now, it appears that the next meeting on this particular item will be on November 15. Thank you, Members. At this time, I'd like to turn over the floor to Mr. White.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you for holding this special meeting to accept the report from the Temporary Investigative Group. I believe this process was very beneficial in allowing us to, in a very short amount of time, cover a wide range of issues and assist the Group in better understanding the complexities within our real property tax system. The Group spent a lot of time, worked very diligently on this, on this process to produce this report--which is the culmination of nine meetings and. . .many over the weekends and, and late at night. So I appreciate their. . .their focus. I'd like to thank, especially, Committee staff--Scott Kaneshina and Carla Nakata--for their support through this process, coming in whenever we needed them, working on weekends and, and so forth. And I'd also like to thank the Administration for providing us an incredible amount of support through this process, using, making available their resources. And in particular, Danny Agsalog; and. . .and especially Property Tax Division Administrator, Scott Teruya; and Technical Officer, Marcy Martin--who provided us with very quick turnaround on requests for information. And that really aided us in moving the process along. Most importantly, though, I'd like to thank the, my fellow TIG members, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Hokama; and Members Baisa and Victorino who put in a lot of long hours and provided the focus that allowed us to move through this process very. . .very quickly. Finally on behalf of the Group, I'd like to officially present and ask that the report be passed out at this time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITE: And I look forward to sharing the findings and recommendations in our meeting on November 15th. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. White. I also would like to thank the Committee Members--Mr. Victorino; the Vice-Chairman of the Group, Mr. Hokama; and Ms. Baisa; also the supporting staff from our 7th floor and also from the Administration. So, Members, on our November 15th meeting, we will be discussing the findings of the TIG. And at that meeting, we'll have an opportunity to discuss this even further with the Members of that particular Group, providing us with some of their comments and some of their findings. So. . .without any objections, the Chair would like to close this meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: No objections.

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CHAIR PONTANILLA: So the meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee for November 4th is now adjourned . . . *(gavel)* . . .

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 11:08 a.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto