

1 FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
 2 COUNTY OF MAUI
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 7 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
 8 REGULAR MEETING
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 13 Held at Maui Fire Department Prevention Bureau, 313
 14 Manea Place, Wailuku, Hawaii, commencing at 10:00 a.m., on
 15 January 16, 2020.
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 20 REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424
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1 (January 16, 2019, 9:00 a.m.)
 2 * * *
 3 CHAIR MISAKI: I would like to call the January 16,
 4 2020, fire and public safety commission meeting to order. I'm
 5 going to take roll call.
 6 Kyle Ginoza. He's excused.
 7 Linda Fernandez.
 8 COMMISSIONER FERNANDEZ: Here.
 9 CHAIR MISAKI: Jack Freitas.
 10 (No response.)
 11 CHAIR MISAKI: Travis Tancayo.
 12 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Here.
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: Gregg Lundberg.
 14 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Present.
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: Dwight Burns.
 16 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.
 17 CHAIR MISAKI: Lisa Vares.
 18 COMMISSIONER VARES: Here.
 19 CHAIR MISAKI: Donna Sterling.
 20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here.
 21 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you all for attending.
 22 I would like to call for approval of the minutes.
 23 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I'll make a motion to
 24 approve the minutes as distributed.
 25 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.

1 ATTENDANCE
 2 COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:
 3 Edwin Misaki, Chair
 4 Linda Fernandez, Member
 5 Travis Tancayo, Member
 6 Gregg Lundberg, Member
 7 Dwight Burns, Member
 8 Lisa Vares, Member
 9 Donna Sterling, Member
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 12 STAFF:
 13 David Thyne, Fire Chief
 14 Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
 15 Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief
 16 Michael Werner, Assistant Fire Chief
 17 Richelle Wakamatsu, Deputy Fire Chief Secretary
 18 Avinash Singh, Firefighter I
 19 Jennifer Oana, Deputy Corporation Counsel
 20 Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency
 21 Paul Coe, Civil Defense
 22
 23
 24
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1 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Gregg Lundberg made the
 2 motion. Anybody --
 3 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Second.
 4 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. Dwight seconded.
 5 Any public testimony?
 6 (No response.)
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: All in favor?
 8 (Response.)
 9 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay.
 10 MS. OANA: Any opposed.
 11 CHAIR MISAKI: Any opposed?
 12 (No response.)
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: All members approved.
 14 Any public testimony?
 15 (No response.)
 16 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay. I am seeing none, so now we'll
 17 go right into Mr. Andaya's report.
 18 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
 19 Members, Commissioners.
 20 COMMISSIONERS: Good morning.
 21 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: You have before you my report.
 22 Just -- I'll just highlight some things that happened in our
 23 agency. The first is as you know, there's new leadership at
 24 the Maui County Council and this led to the creation of a new
 25 committee, which is -- which is now called the climate action

1 and resiliency committee. And so we were -- we were assigned
 2 to that committee and we've been -- we've already appeared
 3 before them once and I understand that it should be calling
 4 upon us many more times in the future, so -- so that's that.

5 We've also been meeting with Maui Council Members
 6 and discussing the -- discussing the idea of having a new
 7 emergency operations center. I think I talked to many of you
 8 already before about how our center is -- it's a -- our EOC is
 9 small, especially when there's an activation. We have sixty
 10 patrons that come up -- come to our EOC and so -- and, also,
 11 the EOC right now, we have some power challenges because a lot
 12 of people, when they bring in their laptops and everything,
 13 they're plugging in and that's been -- that's been an issue
 14 for us. Also, the other issue is the AC, so that room wasn't
 15 rated for 60 to 80 people, it's rated for maybe 20, you know,
 16 and so that's been another issue. So whenever we have
 17 activations, we have to bring in portable ACs to -- to cool,
 18 cool the room down. And so these are all reasons why we're
 19 looking at constructing a new EOC.

20 We've had -- we've gotten the support -- the support
 21 of the mayor, thus far, and all nine council members, they all
 22 are in support right now, so it looks like we're moving ahead.
 23 They're looking at one of two sites, either the Waikapu, the
 24 300 acres that we bought, either there or the Miyahira house,
 25 which is a parcel right next to the county building. And so

1 it looks like both the mayor -- well, it looks like the mayor
 2 is leaning towards the Miyahira house, so...

3 We also have been doing some trainings with respect
 4 to recovery. So one of the things that -- as I mentioned
 5 before to you, one of the things that we fell short on during
 6 activation, especially Hurricane Lane, was the recovery, the
 7 recovery phase, and so we have been having workshops, we
 8 expect to be doing management as what we call a family
 9 assistance center. And so we've been sending staffers to
 10 trainings with respect to creating/establishing a family
 11 assistance center and this would be used for hurricanes, but
 12 primarily it would be used for a mass-fatality type of
 13 incident, so it could be an active shooter, it could be a
 14 plane crash, that type of -- that type of thing.

15 And the -- let's see. Hazard mitigation, we're --
 16 we've started, we've started our update of our hazard
 17 mitigation plan, and so we've hired a contractor out of Boston
 18 and it's a -- it's a year-long process. And this plan is
 19 important because when we go for federal monies, that's one of
 20 the things they look at, whether we have a plan in place and
 21 whether the project is in the plan. So we want to make sure
 22 that this plan is as comprehensive as possible so we can list
 23 all -- we can have all those projects in there.

24 Let's see. Exercises: We have a Makani Pahili that
 25 will be coming up, so we're preparing for that. That is the

1 state's hurricane exercise and that's done every year.

2 We also have the CST that's coming up next month.
 3 CST is civil support team and that's with the National Guard
 4 and we have a lot of our partners involved with that like
 5 fire; fire, police, and some of our state and federal partners
 6 as well.

7 And so that's our report. I know -- I include in my
 8 report also this siren test result for 2019. Commissioners
 9 had asked that we show -- or present them our test results for
 10 the past year. Initially, it was given to me in a big packet
 11 and I didn't want you guys to go through all of that, so I
 12 figured maybe the best way to show the effectiveness of our
 13 siren tests is by having it demographically, so that's what
 14 this is. The green indicates that the siren sounded, the red
 15 signifies that there was no sound, and the yellow means that
 16 there was no contact. So it doesn't mean that -- it doesn't
 17 mean whether it sounded or not, it just means that we didn't
 18 have someone there who heard the siren, so it could be that
 19 they were out to lunch or out on vacation or, you know,
 20 whatever the case may be, so... but this is -- this is --
 21 this kind of shows where we're at. And you can see that
 22 there's some areas, some sirens where there's red all the way
 23 across, so this probably means that the siren is -- there's
 24 something -- there's something wrong it.

25 So I brought with me our communications officer Paul

1 Coe back there. Paul is a retired fire captain from Arizona
 2 and he moved to Maui and we're very fortunate to have him in
 3 our office. He's also a graduate of the Emergency Management
 4 Institute, you've heard me talk about that before, it's a
 5 very -- it's a very -- it's an honor. And he's -- only a
 6 handful of people in the state of Hawaii who are -- who's a
 7 graduate of the academy. So he's here today if you have any
 8 questions about -- about the siren.

9 The last thing I want to point out is the advisory.
 10 So as you can see, I was gonna summarize for you, but I
 11 thought maybe just printing out my report and showing it to
 12 you just to show you how -- how many advisories we had in the
 13 month of December.

14 COMMISSIONER VARES: Jesus.

15 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So it was quite a -- it was
 16 kind of quite a bit. So every time we have this, you
 17 should've gotten like on your phones Maka'ala, you should've
 18 got it. So every time you see one of these, that means that
 19 someone from my staff pushed out these alerts. So you can see
 20 that some of them are early morning, three o'clock in the
 21 morning, a lot of them are at three o'clock in the morning, so
 22 that means that we actually have staff that wake up at three
 23 o'clock in the morning and pushes out the alert so you guys
 24 would know what's going on.

25 Mr. Chair, that's the -- that's my report.

1 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.
 2 Anybody have questions?
 3 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just a -- just a comment.
 4 This is Travis Tancayo. Thank you for that -- the graph. A
 5 lot of times when you go over the numbers and this and that --
 6 this helps us, helps me visualize a lot better what's going on
 7 and where the problems are, so thank you. It's a lot of work
 8 and I appreciate it. This is what I was looking for to see.
 9 Thank you.

10 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Gregg Lundberg. This is --
 12 this is great. I appreciate the effort that went into this.
 13 Is there a plan with the state to address all of these either
 14 no sounds or -- it would be good, I guess, at some point to
 15 have the state come, as we were talking earlier, be able to
 16 explain that.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: We -- we did -- I did receive
 18 a letter from the chair and forwarded that letter to the state
 19 and -- and I thought they were -- they were gonna be here and
 20 then I got call from them a couple days ago saying that
 21 they -- they weren't gonna be able to make it. They've been
 22 extremely busy with Big Island, that's what I'm told, so there
 23 are a lot of sirens that are down because of the --

24 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: The lava.

25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: -- the lava and whatnot, and

1 so they've been extremely busy there. But they said they do
 2 wanna come and they do wanna come in to this meeting at some
 3 point and brief you as to what they've been doing with respect
 4 to these red bars.

5 But maybe I can defer right now to Paul and he'll
 6 explain to you --

7 MR. COE: Yeah, absolutely. And so that paper I
 8 handed out to you, that is in reference to some of the -- the
 9 troubled sirens that have had operational problems over the
 10 last some -- you know, a couple months to sometimes,
 11 unfortunately, what appears to be a couple of years. And
 12 you'll notice on the -- on the side of the status and action,
 13 they do have a plan to get out and repair some of these sirens
 14 now. They're -- some of it does have to do with funding and
 15 such also that -- that they are seeking for the repairs.

16 Specifically, you know, like the Puamana siren, I
 17 know that's one that has been out of -- well, it was out of
 18 service when I started here a year and a half ago, so it's
 19 been before that. It has an electrical issue. They are going
 20 to get -- they initially had a site at a park there for a
 21 replacement siren; however, just in the last couple of months
 22 they have noted some pretty severe shoreline erosion in the
 23 area where they were going to put that siren, so now that --
 24 the replacement siren is on hold. So they -- they said they
 25 will get out and fix that electrical problem with the one in

1 the current area, 'cause that is a siren in a -- in an area
 2 that is used quite a bit along the shore, so...
 3 The newer replacement sirens, that little list down
 4 there, these are additional sirens that are being put in in
 5 locations throughout -- through the -- most of them are like
 6 new sirens covering newer areas, a couple of them are
 7 replacement sirens.

8 There are several solar -- you see some solar panel
 9 stuff that they're going to get repaired and those are
 10 predominantly -- a couple of them out towards, you know
 11 Kamuela outside of the (inaudible) area. So they do have a
 12 plan to get some of these back up and running, some of these
 13 that have been having trouble for an extended period.

14 The other side of that is the no contact stuff that
 15 you see up here. You see on here the yellow marks, that is in
 16 relation to -- in other words, after -- after the siren test,
 17 we send out a -- a notification through our Maka'ala system to
 18 people in the area of the sirens, whether it's a business
 19 or -- or a resident, to see if it was heard, to see if it
 20 sounded. A lot of times people are on vacation or not at
 21 home, some of them -- you know, sirens that are in remote
 22 areas, we have trouble, you'll notice that on some of them,
 23 sirens that are in remote areas, we have trouble finding
 24 people that are consistently there for -- to contact for that
 25 response.

1 And so I -- there is -- we do, you know, have, you
 2 know, a plan to get out and a couple of these that we know --
 3 that we've seen consistent noncontact, to try and update some
 4 of those numbers. That does not -- no contact does not mean
 5 that it didn't sound. What they do, the state does after it
 6 comes in as no contact or no sound, they actually what they
 7 term ping the siren and it -- and it activates and they get
 8 the -- what's the term I want? You know, the guts of the
 9 system, that it -- did it trigger the activation to determine
 10 whether -- and most of the time, yes, it -- some of the older
 11 sirens, that is not gonna tell them whether the -- whether it
 12 sounded, it will tell them whether the electronics worked,
 13 because they're old mechanical sirens and those are some of
 14 them that are on the replacement list.

15 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: So what Paul's talking about
 16 is the state will send a signal to the siren to ping it and
 17 then they can tell if the siren received the signal. So
 18 they're telling us, Oh, it received the signal, you know, but
 19 that doesn't mean the siren is activated, that it is giving an
 20 alarm. And, in fact, Paul -- we got a report, reports that
 21 there was one siren that was not going off, but, yet, the
 22 state is saying, Oh, no, it -- it pinged, it's okay. But Paul
 23 went out one day during a test and, sure enough, it didn't, it
 24 didn't sound, so... So that's -- some of these we do.

25 Paul also mentioned about like how -- how we get

1 this, like the no contacts and all that, so what happens is we
 2 use Maka'ala, yeah, on our cellphones. And as soon as the --
 3 as soon as the siren is -- goes off, Paul sends out a
 4 notification to all -- all of our partners, and there's many
 5 of them, and they get a message that says, Press 1 if you
 6 heard the siren, press 2 if you didn't hear a siren, and press
 7 3 if you were not in the location, something like that, you
 8 know. So we send it out, as soon as he sends it out, we get a
 9 whole bunch of -- you know, where we get results, okay, but
 10 there's a bunch that no one responded. So what we do after
 11 that is we then call, so we now physically call them to see if
 12 they heard the siren or not, and then we get a bunch of
 13 results that come back and -- and then we know whether it
 14 sounded or not. And then the yellow is -- the yellow means
 15 that we were not able to -- you know, they never responded to
 16 the Maka'ala and they didn't respond to our phone call. So I
 17 just wanted to say that because like we go through the -- the
 18 extra step of trying to figure out whether the siren sounded
 19 or not, you know.

20 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Herman and Paul.

21 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I have a --

22 CHAIR MISAKI: Go ahead, Travis.

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: One more question, I'm not
 24 sure if you can answer this, but it says here the Hawaii EMA
 25 radio shop, so is that a team of people that go out to all --

1 there's only one on Oahu or something and they -- and they go
 2 throughout Hawaii and come?

3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: That's correct. There's no --
 4 there's one on Oahu.

5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: On Oahu.

6 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: And so we did ask -- we did
 7 ask during an administrators meeting, like, Maybe we should
 8 have someone on Maui, like just permanently on Maui, you know,
 9 who can go around and ping the sirens and all of that and
 10 then, you know -- what often happens is they fly down here,
 11 but, like I say, they -- you know, there's a problem with one
 12 siren, they'll come down, they'll fly down, they'll go look at
 13 it and say, Okay, we need a part. So they go back home, they
 14 order the part, it takes a while, the part comes in, and they
 15 come back, install the part, and they find out, Oh, that
 16 wasn't it, it still doesn't sound. So now they have to go
 17 back and order another part, you know, and that's -- that's
 18 what usually happens. So we did -- we did ask if they could
 19 put someone permanently on the island, you know, since we do
 20 have, you know, a lot of -- some issues, yeah, with some of
 21 our sirens.

22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Yeah. That seems to be
 23 important to pursue that to get somebody here to get some kind
 24 of reaction. I think in the fire department we faced a lot of
 25 very similar with the Tri Islands, fire truck breaks, need a

1 part, send the part over, the mechanic gets there, still need
 2 another part, wrong part. I mean, if we're not on it, if we
 3 go to natural business days and the way things go, months can
 4 pass by, you know, next week, the barge only comes once a
 5 week, this and that. So that does sound like maybe something
 6 we could encourage or pursue to have somebody here.

7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah.

8 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Or visits, more consistent
 9 visits, annual visit, weekly or monthly, even that might be a
 10 step in the right direction to try to get that out of them.

11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah. I agree, Commissioner.
 12 And, you know, we -- I have expressed my concern a number of
 13 times. Every month they get our report, we send them the
 14 report that you have, and so they know what sirens have been
 15 down, what sirens haven't been sounding, but I -- you're --

16 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Light a fire.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: But you're -- you're
 20 absolutely right --

21 (Inaudible.)

22 (Laughter.)

23 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: If it's raining. You know
 24 what that means too.

25 (Inaudible.)

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: The squeaky wheel is
 2 important, I mean, the tide thing happening around the world,
 3 all of this kind of stuff is just gonna be -- be more
 4 important. That's why they came out with the committee and
 5 this is right amongst with what we need to start doing,
 6 getting better at the public warning system and such. Thank
 7 you.

8 COMMISSIONER VARES: Herman, you mentioned that
 9 there was a plan, the state had a plan for the repair, is it a
 10 written plan that this commission can review?

11 MR. COE: That's on that -- the format I sent you
 12 out, or handed out there. And you'll notice on the left it
 13 lists the siren that -- the ones that we did have a lot of
 14 trouble with and what the repair is, and then on the right,
 15 they're kind of the stats of what they -- what the intent
 16 of -- and they -- you know, the -- a definitive timeline is
 17 tough. They put, you know, kind of a range of time in there
 18 that they want to have it done by, so we haven't gotten
 19 anything as far as we'll be out here next week type
 20 information yet.

21 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: You guys are kind of in a
 22 difficult situation where you depend on these, but you're not
 23 responsible for them.

24 MR. COE: Yes, yes.

25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: So that's a difficult

1 situation to be in, yeah. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Mr. Chair, a question for

3 the chief.

4 Chief, when the sirens go off on a monthly basis,

5 does your team go out in the field and listen for them also?

6 CHIEF THYNE: No, we haven't.

7 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: And I look at -- looking at

8 that list, one of the ones that is no contact, which I would

9 think is an important one, would be Wailea-Makena and I'm just

10 curious if you could have your department be in the field when

11 the sirens go off, especially for some of these tougher ones

12 that we don't necessarily always have a response to.

13 CHIEF THYNE: I mean, it's possible. You know, the

14 hard part, I think, for us is that we never that -- when we're

15 going to be called to duty and --

16 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Of course.

17 CHIEF THYNE: And then now we don't have the person,

18 I guess, for lack of a better description. I mean, if they

19 rely on us to be those ears in the field and then they're on a

20 medical assignment or a rescue or not in the area or in

21 training, you know, then it becomes a problem, I think, for

22 consistency for Herman folks. I know occasionally when I was

23 at Paia Fire Station, assigned there, they would call because

24 the siren was right there. I'm not sure if it still is, but

25 it was right there, so they would call and say, Hey, can you

1 folks listen in and make sure? And absolutely, you know,

2 so -- I mean, it's not a no, it's just I would be concerned

3 about the consistency of that, you know, duty, if you will, or

4 assignment. I mean, collectively possibly with PD, us, and

5 maybe, you know, some community as well, maybe there would be

6 a --

7 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I mean, we're all

8 responsible for public safety.

9 CHIEF THYNE: Absolutely.

10 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: That's part of our

11 responsibility.

12 CHIEF THYNE: Absolutely.

13 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: And being proactive in that

14 pursuit sometimes -- obviously, if they have calls or they're

15 busy training, we would never wanna interrupt any of that, but

16 if it was just a normal day with no calls, you know, to know

17 where some of these more troubled spots -- or at least the

18 spots that we have no contact, if they can just be in that

19 area still on the road, still accessible if things happen.

20 I'm just trying to think of a way that we can better touch

21 some of these from an outreach perspective.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair. Commissioner

23 Sterling.

24 So, Paul.

25 MR. COE: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER STERLING: What you're looking for or

2 talking about is having somebody acknowledge the -- the

3 physical going off.

4 MR. COE: Yes, yes.

5 COMMISSIONER STERLING: If -- what if -- and that

6 would -- we're talking about the state, right, they come in

7 and do. Why couldn't we go to the communities? In each

8 community there are associations and, you know, they have --

9 here we have a CERT program and we educate people and we train

10 people, you know, put it back into the community where you're

11 not bogged down by the state and -- and the bureaucracy of

12 trying to get one person to fly over here and -- I mean, give

13 it back to the communities to --

14 MR. COE: So are you -- are you talking about like

15 the listening for the siren or are you talking about the care

16 of the siren, like the --

17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: You can -- it can be both.

18 I mean, you've got manpower in the communities, you've got

19 retirees, you've got people that are active, you know, come up

20 with a training program so they can own it at their community.

21 MR. COE: Yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: That's just an idea.

23 MR. COE: Yeah. Okay. No, there's -- I will

24 take -- I will definitely note that.

25 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: That's actually a thought, you

1 know, going to like the CERT teams and whatnot and having them

2 involved. We've talked about that. Part of the problem is

3 like each of these sirens will have maybe like five-ten people

4 that we call, you know, and always just one person to tell us

5 that it's working and then we're good, we don't -- you know,

6 we -- it becomes a green at that point. The situation -- I

7 mean, it's when we have like all ten like not respond and it

8 happens. There's some communities where you can tell it's a

9 working community, so everybody's not home, everybody's out,

10 you know, so that's -- that's kind of the -- that's kind of

11 the issue.

12 What we -- what we do is Paul will go into the

13 community wherever there's a siren and will, like, knock on

14 doors and say, Are you here most of the day, you know, can

15 you -- can you help us by doing this? But that's -- that's

16 tough, 'cause a lot of people are not home during the day,

17 yeah. And in some other places, like Wailea, for instance, so

18 people who are on the sirens, you know, they're not -- you

19 know, they're not there every single time that there's a --

20 there's a test, so that's another -- another issue.

21 We try to go to businesses, that seems to work out

22 very well. We also have called fire stations as well, so we

23 do -- we do do that like I think on Molokai --

24 MR. COE: Yeah. There's a couple of them where the

25 fire stations are there.

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I worked at several.
 2 MR. COE: I don't know the exact number.
 3 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yeah, that we call and -- to
 4 check to see if the siren went off. But we did -- we did talk
 5 about the possibility of, like, police and even fire, having
 6 them go out to the siren, especially like in Hana, you know,
 7 where we know no one's there, so they could go out and just
 8 swing by. But I know chief -- I know, chief's, you know,
 9 concerns that -- and they're extremely busy, they're always
 10 out, so they may not necessarily be able to hear sirens.
 11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I have one more question for
 12 Herman.
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: Go ahead then.
 14 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Commissioner Burns. For the
 15 repairs on the sirens, could you guys contract that out, like
 16 put it out to bid for a contractor?
 17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: They are.
 18 MR. COE: So, yeah, we can't, the state has to,
 19 'cause these are owned and operated by the state. And that is
 20 one of the things, you know, like the solar panel stuff,
 21 that's stuff that they are -- that they're gonna contract,
 22 that they have to put out an RFP to get bids on contracts to
 23 go out and repair the solar panel, because it requires taking
 24 a lift out to the location to access the top of the siren
 25 where the solar panel is and all the electrical connections

1 and that kind of stuff.
 2 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you. I think we should move
 3 on.
 4 Next up is the chief.
 5 CHIEF THYNE: Well, happy new year. Thank you for
 6 allowing me to spend some very valuable time with family. I'm
 7 sorry I missed the last meeting and the end of the year with
 8 you folks, but I appreciate it, that was very, very special
 9 time.
 10 Just real quickly looking at the agenda, going down,
 11 just briefly, if you have any questions on the incident and
 12 fire loss report, please let us know. I apologize for that
 13 cell there that didn't have the December dollar loss, it looks
 14 like the -- it got too big to fit in the cell there, so it's
 15 got a bunch of dash marks, but I will correct that for the
 16 next time and probably -- you can probably do some math if you
 17 really wanted to and then come out, but we apologize and we'll
 18 fix that.
 19 The trends you'll see there are pretty consistent
 20 with our visitor counts and our climate, if you will, with
 21 rains and whatnot, our brush fires taper off and other things
 22 maybe pick up a little bit, so it's just a constant ebb and
 23 flow of our incidents.
 24 On our training, again, a wide range of training.
 25 We are a training department, we pride ourselves on that, so

1 you'll see all of the reports on the different disciplines and
 2 things that they do to make sure our firefighters are ready to
 3 respond when called upon.
 4 Just three quick highlights that I put on the
 5 meeting -- or, excuse me, the update for you on my handout, if
 6 you will. Before the Mayor Interaction, you'll see that three
 7 of our kind of peak things that happened over the course of
 8 December is we have ongoing training on fire apparatus driver
 9 operator, that's a program that we have and that's for
 10 operating all the emergency vehicles that we operate. And so
 11 we do training every year on that to make sure we're compliant
 12 and right now the program was -- or, excuse me, December it's
 13 ongoing with Molokai, Lanai, and Hana, we kind of have to make
 14 sure we take of our remote facilities, and then we start
 15 bringing in our other companies as well.
 16 Our hazardous material first responder operations --
 17 I know you probably don't like acronyms, so I try to explain
 18 them when you see those, but HazFRO, that's what it is,
 19 hazardous material first responder operations. All of our
 20 members, with the exception of our haz. mat. and rescue
 21 personnel, have this haz. mat. first responder operations and
 22 then haz. mat. and rescue have technician level, which is
 23 another level higher and more complexity. So we have some
 24 makeups ongoing there.
 25 And then we are proud to say that our Recruit Class

1 35 graduated just after Christmas and they are on the line.
 2 And it was great to -- we thank the chair for attending and
 3 representing you folks at our recruit banquet, graduation
 4 banquet. It was great to the see the families and the
 5 firefighters and the joy of completing a long, arduous
 6 training academy and just to know that they're launching on a
 7 career that's going provide them more than they ever expected,
 8 so it's just great to be a part of that and we thank the
 9 chair, again, for attending.
 10 So quickly on mine, I won't go through every one,
 11 but if you have questions, please let me know. It is on your
 12 handout.
 13 One of the percolating issues we have right now, I
 14 actually have to go up to the council on -- for the GET
 15 committee on the 21st. What happened over the past few years
 16 with our lifeguards union negotiating a collective bargaining
 17 agreement and, hence, the increases that typically come with,
 18 meaning pay increases that typically come with negotiations
 19 with the union -- and in most cases justifiably so, in my
 20 opinion, because they're risking their lives out there in the
 21 ocean rescuing folks and preventing folks from doing things
 22 that they shouldn't. So those increases happen over time, but
 23 the allotment that the state legislature through the DLNR and
 24 the department of public safety didn't increase, they just
 25 have that set amount. And so we have a memorandum of

1 agreement that I believe we're on our 13th amendment, that's
2 the process they do it, I don't know why, but that's how they
3 do it. Maybe Jen would know, but -- so we have to re-sign
4 that agreement every year and that's for Makena. This is for
5 Makena, Big Beach, if you will.

6 So the short version of the story is we get the
7 agreement amount, we know it's not gonna fully fund that
8 location, the council doesn't like that because, you know,
9 we're county and we're providing service to a state beach
10 park, so we constantly have to explain the situation of the
11 CBA and whatnot. Sometimes it's a quick conversation and an
12 understanding, other times they really dig into the nuts and
13 bolts of expenses and why did they get this raise, that type
14 of stuff. So, anyway, we're going to the commission -- excuse
15 me, the GET committee on the 21st of next week and we're going
16 to have to explain that and, hopefully, come out the other
17 side and have the agreement signed.

18 The good news for you folks and all of us
19 collectively is the governor has a bill before the legislature
20 to allocate \$5 million annually to the counties for this.
21 Because all of our counties have this same thing like we have
22 at Big Beach, just different beaches, so he's allocating
23 funding for it basically out of the TAT. If it gets passed --
24 obviously we know how that goes, but if it gets passed, then
25 we'll hopefully not have to continually tax our county or get

1 funding -- additional funding from the county. So I'll keep
2 you updated on that.

3 We're going through the budget process, talking
4 about capital improvement projects. Chief Ventura is working
5 with the mayor representing us on his strategic plan. We are
6 told our budget process should align with his strategic plan
7 as well, so Chief Ventura is making sure we stay on task with
8 that.

9 We did have a fire in Paia, you may have seen in the
10 newspaper and stuff in the month of December, Chief Ventura or
11 Chief Rick might've reported that out when I was gone, but I
12 just located that here.

13 Councilmember Molina, though, wanted to come out
14 representing that community and we did a site visit, Chief
15 Werner and I, he was a battalion chief at the time, we went
16 and drove the perimeter, talked to him about some of the
17 interface issues with the brush coming up to the houses and
18 things of that nature, how we're working with Mahi Pono and
19 other landholders to, hopefully, remediate that or mitigate it
20 as best as possible with fire breaks and things of that
21 nature. So it was a good meeting, hopefully out of that
22 Councilmember Molina is going to be able to work with his
23 community members as well.

24 Let's see. There is a resolution there just on the
25 county council, page No. 2 of 3, the third one down regarding

1 the tort liability. Not to go into too much detail, but it
2 was -- it was an act that went away and what it did was
3 protect the lifeguards unless they did something that was,
4 basically, negligent in rescuing somebody or providing care,
5 they were above the liability. That act went away a couple
6 years ago, so now they're basically bringing it back to cover
7 them unless there's gross negligence in what they're doing, if
8 they're doing a save or a rescue of some sort, so that's a big
9 deal.

10 On the 10th, just this past 10th, I went up and
11 testified before the full council and that was to get
12 additional funding for our heavy equipment contractors as well
13 as our helicopter. So that was unanimously voted and approved
14 based on our back -- past fire season, so we were glad to have
15 that because now we have the funding for our -- you know,
16 hopefully making it through the end of the fiscal year.

17 We are doing an assessment, kind of going over the
18 miscellaneous for Haiku Fire Station0, that's a big deal for
19 us. We have a contractor currently there clearing around the
20 buildings for -- just to make it more visible and, hopefully,
21 deter vandalism and squatting and things of that nature as
22 well as to facilitate the assessors that are -- what they want
23 to do, both Councilmember Molina and the mayor, and I
24 mentioned it before, is assess if that property that we
25 purchased is really the right property for the fire station

1 and what it takes to actually develop that property. And so
2 they put money in their current fiscal year budget to bring in
3 a consultant and determine what exactly is it gonna take, is
4 it feasible, and what monetary price tag are we gonna look at.
5 I.e., do they have to bring in a water line from upper west
6 Kuiaha all the way down, which could be in the millions and
7 millions of dollars to bring in the water infrastructure on
8 that property. It's country, so they have all small lines,
9 they don't have the big feeder lines for hydrants and those
10 types of things.

11 Yeah, the grant that's ongoing, we'll, hopefully, be
12 able to update you soon on that once we get approval to accept
13 it. Chief Werner and Kawasaki have both been working hard on
14 that.

15 The next section there, we're working with police on
16 the Teen Academy. And then we had our battalion chiefs
17 meeting and that's really a platform for us to make sure that
18 we hear from our battalion chiefs the concerns of our -- of
19 our line companies and making sure that our message is heard
20 clearly and if they have any concerns, try to address those as
21 well.

22 So provided -- if you don't have any questions, I'll
23 cede the floor; otherwise, I'm here to answer questions that
24 you may have.

25 (No response.)

1 CHIEF THYNE: No questions? Really? Not a one?
 2 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Chief.
 3 CHIEF VENTURA: That's all right.
 4 COMMISSIONER: We're looking at you.
 5 (Laughter.)
 6 CHAIR MISAKI: Chief Ventura.
 7 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Good morning,
 8 everybody.
 9 COMMISSIONERS: Good morning.
 10 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Chief Ventura here. On my
 11 report you'll see in the department interview and
 12 00promotional process, it's pretty dynamic and -- but when we
 13 print this to the time we actually meet, a lot has happened.
 14 So the update on the recruits are, we sent out just under 50
 15 packets for the recruit candidates and we'll be doing an
 16 agility Saturday for 28 of them will be showing up. For
 17 whatever reason, not all 58 turned in their paper; some are
 18 just not available, some aren't healthy enough, some aren't
 19 physically fit at this time in their life, so they decided to
 20 waive their opportunity, so we're sitting at 28 Saturday
 21 morning to run our agility, which will be followed by
 22 interviews next week all week to interview all of the people
 23 that pass the agility and then we'll get our recruit class
 24 going, hopefully, spring.
 25 The December 31st, as I mentioned, Chief Martin was

1 retiring, that was his last meeting in December with us, so
 2 since then we have received applications, interviewed, and
 3 sitting in the back of the room is our new Assistant Chief
 4 Mike Werner.
 5 COMMISSIONERS: Congratulations.
 6 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Thank you.
 7 (Applause.)
 8 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So, you know, like I said,
 9 it's a very dynamic thing for us, we don't wanna sit on -- as
 10 much as we can, we don't sit on vacancies, we try to get
 11 everything going as quickly as is in our power.
 12 Departmental improvement committee, you know, any
 13 kind of suggestions we get from the line, we just always
 14 trying to make it more transparent and more communication and
 15 better. So when we build an engine or a ladder or any kind of
 16 apparatus, it's like building a house. The specs for these
 17 vehicles is a hundred and some odd pages, the blueprints are
 18 drawn up, meetings are had in Wisconsin or wherever the vendor
 19 may be, Florida, Texas, Colorado, and several trips are taken.
 20 So along that route we get pictures, which is, basically, the
 21 report from the vendor, and so we're just trying to make those
 22 available to the guys on the line. 'Cause they're the ones
 23 that have the truck that's slowly dying that are going to be
 24 receiving these new vehicles, so they're excited, so we try to
 25 just keep them in the loop and be like this is Engine 11, for

1 example, going over to Napili and this is where it's at, it's
 2 being welded, now it's being painted, now it's being wired, so
 3 those guys on the line can kind of look at the pictures as
 4 it's being built.
 5 Union interactions, HFFA is our firefighter union,
 6 it's been pretty quiet for the month, the holidays. They had
 7 a new election just recently, so we will be working with a new
 8 group of executive board members with them, so we'll meet and
 9 do what we need to do.
 10 Ocean safety, HGEA as well, their HGEA rep recently
 11 left within the last couple of weeks, so we'll be waiting for
 12 another person on their end to be identified so we can work
 13 with them.
 14 This week starts arbitration for the ocean safety's
 15 lifeguards, so Battalion Chief Jeff Giesea will be going. He
 16 actually is in Honolulu right now so that he can testify and
 17 listen to the proceedings. So, hopefully, they can come to
 18 some agreements and then it's in the arbitrator's hand after
 19 that.
 20 Transmittals from the public, the -- we're getting
 21 more feedback from the Kahana fire out in Kapalua Airport, you
 22 know, that affected a lot of people, not only road closures,
 23 but it was near homes, so we had a lot of, you know, just
 24 emails and notes and things from those people out there.
 25 Then the Maui Raceway Park is one of the few raceway

1 facilities in the state of Hawaii. I think Honolulu's has not
 2 been reopened in years. So a lot of people really enjoy the
 3 raceway park we have here, it's run by parks and recs, and
 4 people even ship their cars in here to race on holiday races.
 5 Anyway, there was an accident down there where somebody's
 6 brakes failed, their parachute failed, and their tree -- and
 7 their car ended up in a tree, believe it or not, and so we
 8 responded down there, and so the family expressed great
 9 gratitude for it saving their husband. So that was that
 10 incident.
 11 And that concludes my report. Any questions?
 12 CHIEF THYNE: Could I ask a question?
 13 (Laughter.)
 14 CHIEF THYNE: Is that okay?
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: Go ahead. Go ahead, Chief.
 16 CHIEF THYNE: Only because Archie served this body
 17 for five years as commissioner and we've been going back and
 18 forth, so I haven't touched bases with him this morning on
 19 Archie's update, if you have anything.
 20 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: I haven't heard anything, but
 21 I'll check.
 22 CHIEF THYNE: So our Archie Kalepa, the fire
 23 commissioner, got burned over the holidays. I believe it was
 24 related to an imu, you know, steam burn. I'm not sure, we're
 25 not sure, we just got notification kind of through the Coconut

1 Wireless that it happened. I looked in our records and stuff,
 2 our guys were dispatched, so I think it just went medics, but
 3 I heard he was air-medevaced over to Honolulu, to Oahu.
 4 So I haven't heard. Did you hear? We were kind of
 5 reaching out to some of our ocean safety group to find out,
 6 but...
 7 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: All I heard was burns to his
 8 hands and face, but I don't know how bad or where he's at,
 9 which island he's on right now. We haven't heard any of that
 10 from him or...
 11 CHIEF THYNE: But I did wanna let you know just in
 12 case.
 13 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.
 14 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Chief.
 15 CHIEF THYNE: We'll try to -- obviously, we're
 16 sending people over, you know, checking on the hospital, Cary
 17 Kayama and some of the folks from ocean safety, but, you know.
 18 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.
 19 COMMISSIONER STERLING: He's got a house at
 20 (inaudible).
 21 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Deputy.
 22 We'll go on to Assistant Chief Kawasaki.
 23 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Good morning.
 24 COMMISSIONERS: Good morning, Chief.
 25 ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: AC Kawasaki. So I don't

1 have very much more to add to my report that's included in
 2 your packet. New Year's Eve was pretty uneventful, a lot of
 3 small incidences. We did have a medical where somebody got
 4 injured from fireworks.
 5 Both chiefs covered the rest of the stuff about the
 6 recruit class and our trucks.
 7 The one that I think I did do, about a week or
 8 two -- about two weeks ago I did meet with Blue Hawaiian, as
 9 requested by Commissioner Lundberg, so we had a meeting with
 10 them. I took one of our BCs down with me and we basically
 11 discussed their capabilities to assist us with their
 12 helicopters on incidents. I did send them a packet to become
 13 a vendor, if you will, haven't heard anything back since then.
 14 But they are able to transport personnel, do water drops, and
 15 also just fly the -- whoever the incident commander is, you
 16 know, over fires to do recons, so we don't have to interrupt
 17 firefighters when they're trying to drop water on the fire.
 18 Other than that, that's all I have. Any questions?
 19 CHAIR MISAKI: You have a question?
 20 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just a comment.
 21 CHAIR MISAKI: Commissioner Tancayo.
 22 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just in general, just to
 23 mention about the fireworks, it's incredible, the amount of
 24 fireworks that's even on Molokai. I mean, we had --
 25 (Laughter.)

1 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Just because we're public
 2 safety, just to think, all of these items are coming in
 3 through our docks --
 4 COMMISSIONERS: Yeah.
 5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: -- our airports. And in the
 6 construction business, when you guys move explosives, there's
 7 a carrier van and they have -- let everybody know. I think
 8 there's just as much explosives being around in people's cars
 9 being transported and the thought of that is scary. I mean,
 10 on Molokai, it's crazy. You can go down to the wharf and you
 11 can see Lahaina and that place doesn't stop as far as the
 12 amount of fireworks. So, you know, we're on the fire
 13 commission and just to note that, man, we've gotta -- I don't
 14 know how we're gonna do it or -- something needs to be done
 15 and...
 16 CHIEF THYNE: Well, that's good feedback,
 17 Commissioner. If I could -- and Commissioner Vares was there,
 18 we were at the school last year, a little over last year --
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.
 20 CHIEF THYNE: -- and you and your husband attended.
 21 And we had meeting and had the harbors rep, had -- you know,
 22 had the police chief, myself, and -- and it was facilitated by
 23 Mahina Martin from Maui Electric. The general consensus I got
 24 is that, you know, it basically has to stop at the port
 25 somehow.

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: Mm-hmm.
 2 CHIEF THYNE: And they don't have currently the
 3 legislation in place and they don't have the manpower, I
 4 guess, for lack of a better description, on being able to
 5 check every container that comes in, you know. Certainly it
 6 probably comes with a cargo manifest or something like that, a
 7 bill of lading or something like that, but they basically --
 8 Paul Sansano and some other folks that were there representing
 9 these various agencies said, We don't have the manpower, we
 10 don't have -- so I don't know what they're gonna do, you know.
 11 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: They really need to create
 12 something, because this kind of stuff, boom, they -- we missed
 13 one, boom, one got through, one got through. It's --
 14 CHIEF THYNE: And my comment to them was as far as
 15 the consumer or the permittees, those aren't the issue.
 16 COMMISSIONERS: Right.
 17 CHIEF THYNE: That's what we regulate, if you want
 18 to call it regulate, because we issue permits and things like
 19 that. That's not the issue, it's the illegals that come in
 20 however they come in and -- and so it's kind of -- I don't
 21 want to say it's out of our hands and I certainly feel for you
 22 folks and the concern. You know, three of my neighbors' dogs
 23 ran away and we were searching the whole -- almost the whole
 24 night to --
 25 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Somebody's dog ended up in my

1 garage.
 2 (Laughter.)
 3 CHIEF THYNE: Mine too. I had dogs running around
 4 in my yard.
 5 COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: I had to close the garage
 6 door.
 7 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah. So...
 8 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So I have a question.
 9 Commissioner Sterling. Is it a city -- or, Jennifer, is it
 10 county, is it federal, is it the docks? Who triggers --
 11 MS. OANA: I think it would be state, 'cause the
 12 county wouldn't be in control of the docks or anything like
 13 that, so it would have to go, you know, through the state
 14 legislature.
 15 CHIEF THYNE: It seems like everybody's kicking the
 16 can down. And you saw that, Commissioner Vares.
 17 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah. Commissioner Vares. The
 18 only people that could have answered any of these questions at
 19 that meeting was Coast Guard.
 20 CHIEF THYNE: Yes.
 21 COMMISSIONER VARES: And they were the only ones
 22 that didn't come.
 23 CHIEF THYNE: Yes.
 24 COMMISSIONER VARES: And they're -- and that was a
 25 fascinating meeting. Like I had no idea how -- how hogtied

1 fire and police and the -- the general populace are. And, you
 2 know, we're -- we're all frustrated by it, but then -- well,
 3 if we're all frustrated by it and all the people in the
 4 meetings are frustrated by it, how come there's still 750,000
 5 fireworks going off? It's like who gets --
 6 (Laughter.)
 7 COMMISSIONER VARES: So, apparently, there's a lot
 8 of people that aren't frustrated by it and we're not gonna get
 9 it passed through all of them, that's for sure. So the only
 10 way to stop is at the docks, but, again, Coast Guard wasn't
 11 there to answer any questions. I'd very much be interested in
 12 hosting another one of those meetings because that was really,
 13 really interesting. And everyone in the audience seemed to
 14 have kind of a light bulb moment like, Oh, we can't -- we
 15 can't yell at the police officers for this because the
 16 evidence just exploded. There's no evidence left to go after
 17 someone even if it was regulated or criminalized. It just
 18 exploded, it's gone. So I would really hope that there's
 19 going to be another meeting like that.
 20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: It's a good time --
 21 Commissioner Sterling. It's a good time because the leg. is
 22 back in session and -- not that they need more bills --
 23 COMMISSIONER VARES: That looked like a big,
 24 coordinated effort.
 25 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah.

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: I mean, everybody was there,
 2 fire, police.
 3 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Who coordinated it? Who ran
 4 it?
 5 COMMISSIONER VARES: Mahina Martin. The DLNR harbor
 6 was there, literally everyone you can possibly ask questions
 7 of was sitting on the stage except Coast Guard. And they all
 8 said, I'm sorry, we can't answer that, it's Coast Guard's
 9 jurisdiction.
 10 CHAIR MISAKI: I would like to make a comment. This
 11 is Commissioner -- Chair Misaki. It seems to me that this is
 12 a TSA issue, because we've gotta stop it coming in. Once it
 13 comes in to Hawaii, it's hard to -- it's hard to stop the flow
 14 because the money is so great, people are willing to take
 15 their private boats to other islands. From the word that I
 16 got, people from Molokai and Maui are going to Oahu to dump
 17 stuff there because the money is so good. So you've gotta
 18 stop the flow coming into Hawaii. Once it gets to Hawaii,
 19 it's hard to -- yeah. So I think -- I mean, I would worry
 20 that TSA can't stop -- I mean, we've got explosives coming
 21 into our ports.
 22 COMMISSIONER VARES: Is that you, Home Security --
 23 Homeland --
 24 (Laughter.)
 25 (Multiple speakers.)

1 CHAIR MISAKI: But wasn't that the kind -- wasn't
 2 that a big issue after 9/11, that --
 3 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah, in your shoes.
 4 CHAIR MISAKI: Protecting the entire airport, but
 5 the port was a big issue; right?
 6 COMMISSIONERS: Yeah.
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.
 8 CHIEF THYNE: On a positive note for us as a county,
 9 Tina Wildberger, a representative, I've seen her proposals
 10 or -- I don't know what -- I'm sorry, I don't know the legal
 11 words, but legislative package, if you will, and she's trying
 12 to get personnel and dogs to basically go through the
 13 containers. And so she pushed that forward last legislative
 14 session, I'll keep my eyes out if she does it again. It
 15 didn't get moved through the house or senate or however that
 16 works, but -- it got shot down, but that was an effort I
 17 thought was worthy.
 18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Nice.
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.
 20 CHIEF THYNE: You know. So if -- hopefully, that's
 21 a start and then they end up building that force, if you will,
 22 bigger. I mean, they can actually search as many containers,
 23 you know --
 24 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.
 25 COMMISSIONER STERLING: K9s.

1 COMMISSIONER VARES: Yeah.
 2 CHAIR MISAKI: Okay.
 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. We've gotta save room
 4 for Chief Werner.
 5 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you.
 6 (Laughter.)
 7 CHAIR MISAKI: Chief Werner.
 8 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Thank you. Good morning,
 9 Commissioners, Chair, and Chief. This is the first time I've
 10 ever introduced myself as assistant chief.
 11 COMMISSIONERS: Congratulations.
 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's gotta feel good.
 13 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: That's cake and ice cream,
 14 yeah.
 15 (Laughter.)
 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: It'll be old hat by next
 17 meeting.
 18 So, real quickly, the generator replacements for
 19 Paia, Hana, and Kahului Fire Station have been completed.
 20 The Lanai Fire Station expansion, we're working
 21 with -- on the plans for access to get an easement, 'cause the
 22 parks department, they have a plot of land that goes right up
 23 to that, so we're working with them and Architects Hawaii to
 24 come up with a way to get the vehicles into that new expansion
 25 section of the station.

1 Automatic transfer switches for Hana, Lanai, and
 2 Napili Stations, we've secured a contractor to do that.
 3 And the exterior painting for Wailuku, Paia,
 4 Makawao, Kahului, Lahaina, and Napili Stations, the specs have
 5 gone out for bid and the bid opening is scheduled for, it
 6 looks like, February 5th.
 7 I was looking at Chief Martin's meetings from last
 8 month and he was talking about our FMAG, so Chief Thyne -- I'm
 9 sorry, Chief Ventura and I have been working on that and we
 10 have a meeting today to present our documents to HiEMA and
 11 move forward securing that FMAG.
 12 Maui Electric Company, last month they were trying
 13 to get the power cut to the Haiku Fire Station location and I
 14 think that that got done.
 15 COMMISSIONER VARES: No.
 16 CHIEF THYNE: Did it?
 17 COMMISSIONER VARES: No.
 18 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: No, it didn't?
 19 COMMISSIONER VARES: No. It was just like very
 20 slowly creeping under the water, so it's -- yeah. I'm sorry.
 21 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: So, go ahead, right under
 22 the bus.
 23 (Laughter.)
 24 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: No.
 25 COMMISSIONER VARES: Sorry. It wasn't your goal.

1 It's not your fault.
 2 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: And then, as I moved into
 3 this position, one of the priorities that Chief Thyne
 4 presented with me was aggressively going after grants. So
 5 there was a lot of people already in place, but I just
 6 gathered them together and we had our first grant team meeting
 7 and appointed Captain Reza Azman as the program director and
 8 we're coming up with a plan to aggressively go after grants
 9 this year.
 10 And that's everything I have for you folks.
 11 CHAIR MISAKI: What was that again, Chief?
 12 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Grants.
 13 CHAIR MISAKI: No. Who is --
 14 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Reza Azman.
 15 ASSISTANT CHIEF MARTIN: Okay. Yeah.
 16 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Any questions?
 17 (No response.)
 18 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.
 19 CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Chief. I'd like to
 20 introduce Avinash Singh from the Recruit Class 35 and he's
 21 gonna give us a Recruit Class Journey. Thank you for coming.
 22 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: Good morning. Thank
 23 you, sir. Thank you all so much for this opportunity to speak
 24 to you all on behalf of my fellow recruits and on behalf of
 25 the fire department as well.

1 I'm Probationary Firefighter Avinash Singh, Ladder
 2 14 A Watch. So I've been tasked with talking to you about our
 3 journey as a recruit class. I guess if there are any
 4 questions at any time, please stop me and ask so we don't miss
 5 anything. I do have a list of notes, so I'll still be on
 6 track somewhat.
 7 So I would like to say that training at Maui
 8 County's Fire Department does live up to its reputation. If
 9 any of you have heard how gruesome, how grueling, it's all
 10 true.
 11 (Laughter.)
 12 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: But it is also one of
 13 the most enjoyable and rewarding things that anybody in my
 14 recruit class can tell you that we've done.
 15 CHAIR MISAKI: I wanna just interrupt for a second.
 16 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: Sure.
 17 CHAIR MISAKI: I, you know, attended the Recruit
 18 Class 35 and I just wanted to pass along that Recruit Singh
 19 was voted as the Most Outstanding Academic Recruit.
 20 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: If I may, I was not
 21 academic, I'm not book smart.
 22 (Laughter.)
 23 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: That award went to Chad
 24 Tokunaga. He looks very similar to me, though.
 25 (Laughter.)

1 CHAIR MISAKI: He was the most outstanding --
 2 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: Outstanding Spirit
 3 Award.
 4 CHAIR MISAKI: Yeah.
 5 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: Yeah. So a lot of my
 6 own recruits mixed me and Tokunaga up a lot.
 7 (Laughter.)
 8 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: But we also are
 9 extremely grateful for everything that has been given to us,
 10 the opportunity to become firefighters and carry on a very
 11 proud legacy of the fire service, especially here in Maui
 12 County.
 13 To start at the beginning, we start with a written
 14 exam that we all take between our state ARC brothers and the
 15 county gentlemen as well. Passing that, we go into our
 16 physical agility test, our PTA, which will be held for the
 17 next recruit class on Saturday. Best of luck to all of them.
 18 It was -- it's a very good experience, a nice taste of what is
 19 to come.
 20 Upon passing that, we are scheduled for an interview
 21 with a panel of chiefs. For me personally, I had Chief
 22 Ventura, Chief Kawasaki, and then Battalion Chief Cambra on my
 23 panel. If given approval and the opportunity, you go into our
 24 orientation, so there is the first time I met all of my
 25 brothers who would be serving with me for Maui County. We

1 were given homework, which we all needed to complete until our
 2 first day of recruit class.
 3 From there, we meet our state brothers, the airport
 4 crash and rescue gentlemen -- I just say gentlemen because in
 5 my class we did only have males, we didn't have any female
 6 recruits in my recruit class. Not to say that there aren't
 7 any and there are a lot of -- there are a couple of different
 8 female firefighters who are leagues ahead of me. From there,
 9 I met 29 strangers who through the course of 22 weeks became
 10 my brothers. Going through this recruit class, you do come
 11 together and that's extremely important because in the fire
 12 service, teamwork, trust, and respect are three values that
 13 are held extremely highly.
 14 In our 22 weeks we have early mornings. For me
 15 personally, I woke up at 4:45 to attend physical training at
 16 6:30. From there, we'll go to an hour of physical training
 17 into whatever training we have for that day. We learned
 18 multiple disciplines so it will vary throughout the 22 weeks.
 19 Of course, we'll have lunch and then a little bit of a break
 20 to recap on what we've learned. Go right back into training,
 21 finish off, and then late nights of studying for what we've
 22 done and preparing for the next day ahead. The training that
 23 we get is invaluable. We are always told that as firemen,
 24 we're jack-of-all-trades, master of none. We get taught over
 25 11 different disciplines from auto extrication all the way to

1 water rescue craft, using jet skis, to even medical, which we
 2 do very often for our calls.
 3 From there, upon completion of all of our 22 weeks,
 4 it culminates in graduation. Which, thank you, Commissioner,
 5 for attending. I apologize that we weren't able to see
 6 everyone, but, of course, from the bottom of our hearts we do
 7 say thank you.
 8 In graduation we're pinned, we get our badges and
 9 then we're officially probationary firefighters. We will have
 10 our evaluation on August 1st or within that week to go to
 11 Firefighter 1, hopefully, which is something that we're all
 12 trained for and looking forward to. Currently, we all are
 13 serving online. We are at different stations doing different
 14 roles as well as our state brethren, they're also -- all of
 15 them, with the exception of three, are at OTG.
 16 From here, we are competent probationary
 17 firefighters and I would like to say thank you to everyone,
 18 not just our administration who have done a whole lot for us,
 19 from our chiefs all the way down to Ms. Jane Adams, who
 20 handles our Workday and helps us do all of our different
 21 technical issues that we pretty often incur, but also to our
 22 families who support us, our loved ones, our friends, even our
 23 pets, who just give us that little extra bit of love to get us
 24 through our day.
 25 If you do have any questions, please feel free.

1 CHAIR MISAKI: Go ahead, Commissioner --
 2 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Thank you for being here
 3 today and going through the training and surviving, so
 4 congratulations. What made you want to be a fireman? I mean,
 5 you'll probably find jobs that pay more, you'll probably find
 6 jobs that you don't risk your life for, what motivated you to
 7 do this?
 8 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: For me personally, it's
 9 my family. I grew up here in Maui, born and raised. I was
 10 fortunate enough to live on Oahu for a couple of years to
 11 attend school, but Maui's my home, my family's my family, and
 12 they're people who I want to protect, I want to serve, and I
 13 want to help as much as I can. And going through recruit
 14 class, meeting all of our different trainers, all of our
 15 different firefighters who are currently online and
 16 understanding just how much this job entails and calls for,
 17 how rewarding, in a sense, it can be is something that really
 18 solidified that for me. It's -- I'm still searching for
 19 another answer because I'm sure it will change as the years
 20 progress, but that desire to help and protect people is what
 21 drove me personally.
 22 COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Great. Thank you.
 23 COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.
 24 FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE SINGH: Thank you all so much
 25 for your time.

1 **COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Congratulations on your**
 2 **career. And the brothers that you make today, 30 years ago I**
 3 **met brothers too and a lot of them five years ago were sitting**
 4 **around this same table doing different functions, so it can**
 5 **take you as long as you want to take it, you know, as far as**
 6 **you want to go, it gives you opportunity. And in the words of**
 7 **chiefs that came before me, this job has allowed me to raise**
 8 **my family, take care of my family, and do a lot of things. So**
 9 **when the going gets tough and you ask yourself why and you**
 10 **step back and you look around at the community and what you do**
 11 **and it is a gift to have the strength and the knowledge to**
 12 **help people. So enjoy the ride, have fun, and congratulations**
 13 **once again.**

14 (Applause.)

15 **CHAIR MISAKI: Any more comments?**

16 **COMMISSIONER STERLING: That was tearful, that was**
 17 **beautiful, I'm --**

18 (Laughter.)

19 (Multiple speakers.)

20 **CHAIR MISAKI: Thank you, Firefighter Singh.**

21 **I just wanted to remind you guys, next meeting date**
 22 **and time is Thursday, February 20th, same place here at**
 23 **10:00 a.m. Would somebody like to move to adjourn.**

24 **COMMISSIONER STERLING: I move to adjourn the**
 25 **meeting.**

1 **CHAIR MISAKI: Donna.**

2 **COMMISSIONER VARES: Second.**

3 **COMMISSIONER TANCAYO: Second.**

4 **CHAIR MISAKI: Travis seconded. All those in favor?**

5 (Response.)

6 **CHAIR MISAKI: Anybody opposed?**

7 (No response.)

8 **CHAIR MISAKI: All right. We're officially**
 9 **adjourned.**

10 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:05 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1 STATE OF HAWAII)
 2) SS.
 3 COUNTY OF MAUI)

4
 5 I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for
 6 the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on January 16, 2019,
 7 at 10:00 a.m. the proceedings was taken down by me in machine
 8 shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under
 9 my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of
 10 my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings
 11 had in the foregoing matter.

12
 13 I further certify that I am not an attorney for any
 14 of the parties hereto, nor in any way concerned with the
 15 cause.

16
 17 DATED this 3rd day of February, 2020, in Maui,
 18 Hawaii.

19
 20
 21
 22 _____
 23 Sandra J. Gran, RPR
 24 Hawaii CSR 424
 25