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FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:00 a.m., on
April 15, 2021.

REPORTED BY: SANDRA J. GRAN, RPR/CSR #424

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kyle Ginoza, Chair
- Lisa Vares, Vice Chair
- Dwight Burns, Member
- Donna Sterling, Member
- Max Kincaid, Jr., Member

STAFF:

- David Thyne, Fire Chief
- Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief
- Michael Werner, Battalion Chief
- Hanalei Lindo, Battalion Chief
- Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel
- Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary
- Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

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(April 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m.)

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CHAIR GINOZA: I'd like to call to order the Maui Fire and Public Safety Commission meeting. My name is Kyle Ginoza, chair of the commission. I'd first like to start off -- welcome, everybody, and I'd first like to start off with roll call of members.

Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Present.

CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Gregg Lundberg. I don't see him.

Dwight Burns.

COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight.

Donna Sterling.

COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Donna.

Punahеле Alcon. I don't see her.

And Max Kincaid, Jr. I see Max, so Max is present.

I hope everyone had a chance to review the March 18th meeting minutes. Does anybody need any more time or have any questions on the minutes themselves?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, could I have a motion to accept the minutes from last meeting on March 18th?

1 COMMISSIONER BURNS: Motion to accept.

2 VICE CHAIR VARES: Motion to accept.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight.

4 And a second.

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: Second.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Lisa. Thank you.

7 All in favor, raise your hand.

8 (Response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Any opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 CHAIR GINOZA: No opposed. So the approval -- the
12 meeting minutes are approved.

13 So next, we'll move on to the annual election of the
14 commission chair and vice chair. And for that, I will turn
15 over the meeting to Gary Murai.

16 MR. MURAI: Actually --

17 CHAIR GINOZA: Gary.

18 MR. MURAI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Actually,
19 Mr. Chair, you know, you can -- you can remain in the chair
20 seat while you conduct the election, but let's kind of go over
21 some --

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, okay.

23 MR. MURAI: -- I guess, the process or the format.
24 The first thing we need to do is decide on what process we're
25 going to use and how we're going to vote. Typically, what you

1 would do is open up the floor for nominations. Each member
2 has an opportunity -- will have the opportunity to make a
3 nomination; in other words, nominate another commission member
4 or nominate themselves. After everyone has had the chance to
5 make their nomination, you're going to close nominations, and
6 you can open up the floor for discussion where people can
7 speak for or against, you know, any of the candidates. And
8 then once that's pau, you're gonna close the discussion and
9 have a vote.

10 We also need to decide how we're going to vote, and
11 it can be either all in favor of So-and-So, raise your hand,
12 and you're gonna go around the room and count the votes. All
13 in favor of somebody else, raise your hand, and count the
14 votes. And then whoever has the majority of the votes will be
15 the next chair. Oh, that's another thing, too. We'll start
16 with the chair, and then vice chair. So it can be a show of
17 hands, it can be roll call, it can be a voice vote. But
18 probably the easiest for you, because we're in a BlueJeans
19 meeting and we can see everyone, just, you know, raise your
20 hand, and then count the votes.

21 So we'll start with the chair, then go to the vice
22 chair, and the first thing you're gonna do is open up the
23 floor for nominations.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Anything else?

25 MR. MURAI: Nope. That's it.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. So do we have any
2 nominations for chair of the commission? Donna.

3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yes, Chair. Thank you. So
4 I'd like to nominate Kyle Ginoza for chair.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Any other nominations?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, is there any
8 discussion from members? Yes, Lisa.

9 VICE CHAIR VARES: I'd like to mention what a good
10 job I think you're doing as current chair --

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR VARES: -- keeping us all in order and in
13 line and I'd like to stay in the same vein for this the next
14 year.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Any other comments?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there any way to watch
17 them, but disable my own?

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, okay, let's vote. All
19 in favor of Kyle Ginoza for chair?

20 (Response.)

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Can I vote for myself so that we have
22 quorum?

23 MR. MURAI: Of course, you can.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So five in favor. And anybody
25 opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, that passes, so --

3 MR. MURAI: Okay. Congratulations, Kyle. You're a
4 victim of your own success.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

6 MR. MURAI: So now you can move on to vice chair.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: It's an honor to serve again, so
8 thank you.

9 So let's move on to vice chair. Do we have any
10 nominations for vice chair? Yes, Dwight.

11 COMMISSIONER BURNS: I nominate Lisa Vares for vice
12 chair.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Excellent. Do we have any other
14 nominations for vice chair?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, any discussion
17 from members?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you. All in favor of
20 Lisa as vice chair, please raise your hand.

21 (Response.)

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Anybody opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, so five for Lisa Vares
25 as vice chair and none against. So congratulations, Lisa.

1 You do an excellent job.

2 MR. MURAI: Yeah. Thank you, Kyle and Lisa, for
3 accepting this responsibility.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure. Great. Thank you.

5 And one thing I actually forgot during the roll call
6 is to recognize the other members that we have, so one of
7 these days I'll get it correct. So we have Gary Murai and
8 Moana Lutey from corporation counsel.

9 And, Chief Thyne, would you like to recognize who we
10 have in the room with you, please?

11 CHIEF THYNE: Are we on?

12 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Yes.

13 CHIEF THYNE: Yeah, Chair. Thank you. Good
14 morning, everybody. And congratulations to the chair and the
15 vice chair. And as always, thank you to the commission
16 members for doing what you do. I know you get paid a lot less
17 than us, so we certainly appreciate your efforts.

18 So in the room with me, of course, is Deputy Chief
19 Brad Ventura. Then to the left of Chief Ventura is
20 normally -- Battalion Chief Hanalei Lindo, but he's acting in
21 Chief Kawasaki's spot. Chief Kawasaki is on the mainland
22 doing yeomen's work inspecting about four or so vehicles for
23 us. So he's up on the mainland, so Chief Lindo is in his
24 role. And then to the left of Chief Lindo is Chief Werner
25 right behind me. And then off to my left here is Richelle.

1 She likes to stay off camera, but she's present as well,
2 Chair.

3 And on the screen I see a few firefighters are
4 tuning in as well, so -- and also some of our staff from the
5 office, so we appreciate them and their continuing involvement
6 in the process.

7 Thank you, Chair.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you very much.

9 And I see Herman has joined us as well. Herman, do
10 you have anybody else with you? Herman from MEMA.

11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair, no, it's just
12 myself from this office.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Thank you for joining
14 us.

15 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: The next item we have is an item from
17 the Maui Charter Commission, and I believe Chief Ventura can
18 explain a little bit about what that's about.

19 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. So
20 annually the boards and commissions and committees are looked
21 at and evaluated to see if any updates need to be brought to
22 our commission or charter notes that kind of give us overview
23 and direction. So this memo is shared with us and it's in the
24 packet dated March 22nd. And if there's any input from
25 corporation counsel or the department or any recommendations

1 from the commission, we can take that input up to the mayor's
2 office.

3 MR. MURAI: Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

5 Yes.

6 MR. MURAI: Mr. Chair, if I may add to what Chief
7 Ventura said. Yeah, what the charter commission is doing is
8 they're soliciting input from all boards and commissions as to
9 any recommendations the commission may have with regard to
10 charter amendments. The charter commission meets once every
11 ten years; they serve for a limited amount of time, about 16
12 months or so. They just started meeting and beginning their
13 work, and they're gonna be, you know, making recommendations
14 as to what amendments, if any, are gonna be put on the ballot,
15 the 2022 election ballot for modification of the charter.

16 Now, because we are the fire commission, naturally,
17 we're interested in the portions of the charter that relate
18 to -- that create the fire department, that create the
19 positions -- the chief's position and sets forth the
20 qualifications for the chief. It also sets out, you know,
21 what the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the
22 commission are. So we don't -- given their deadline, we do
23 not have to make a decision today. What I would recommend is
24 that everyone think about it and look at the charter, look at
25 the chapter that regards the fire and public safety

1 department, look at also the -- at the end of the charter,
2 there's a Chapter 13-2, which sets out how boards and
3 commissions, how you folks are appointed, what your terms are,
4 and that would be a natural place for you folks to look at,
5 you know, what -- you know, what's -- what is you folks'
6 kuleana, which is fire and public safety, what rules govern
7 you folks, which is, you know, the boards and commissions,
8 but, you know, this thing is so broad that if any of you see
9 something in -- anywhere in the charter that you think are
10 relevant to fire and public safety and that you think the
11 charter commission should look at, I would recommend that we
12 put this on the agenda again for our May meeting so that we
13 can come up with any kind of final recommendations, if you
14 folks have any, to send to the charter commission.

15 Anybody have any questions about that? This is an
16 opportunity that comes up, you know, once every ten years, so
17 if there's anything in the charter that regards what we do,
18 then I would certainly suggest that, you know, we discuss it
19 and try -- you know, see if we can come to a consensus on --
20 on any recommended changes or -- or no change, you know, for
21 our next meeting.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair.

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Donna.

24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair, could you give me an
25 example of -- of -- I know about the -- the percentage of why

1 we commissioners are on board, I've read the charter, but
2 could you give me an example if we defer this till next month,
3 what would -- what are you talking about to change the
4 chart -- the commission, the fire commission? Is it policy,
5 procedure, protocol, or a -- how -- can you give me an
6 example?

7 MR. MURAI: No, it's -- okay, Donna, I'll try.

8 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Okay.

9 MR. MURAI: Now, if it's something that regards, you
10 know, like the commission's own procedural rules, you know, we
11 have administrative rules that we can change, you know, just,
12 you know, a lot simpler, we can initiate that kind of change
13 any time. The charters are meant to be hard to change
14 because, you know, we don't want to -- to have the charter
15 changing every year, so -- which is why it is a very involved
16 process.

17 Now, I think one example would be the way that
18 commissioners are -- are appointed. I don't know if you folks
19 are aware, but, you know, we have two pukas on the commission,
20 you know, the two nominees -- my understanding is that the two
21 nominees that the mayor sent to council did not make it
22 through, which is why, you know, today we just have a bare
23 quorum, you know, we only have seven members right now. So
24 one example would be right now the charter says if a -- if a
25 board or commission member is rejected, the mayor has 30 days

1 to put somebody else's name out there. My personal opinion is
2 30 days is too short, so if I was trying to, you know,
3 recommend changes, I'd say, you know, maybe we should give the
4 mayor 60 days to name a replacement. You know, that's just
5 one example.

6 So like when you look at -- I forget the chapter
7 number, the one that creates the fire and public safety
8 commission, look at that and say, Okay, like, for example, the
9 charter -- the fire commission's kuleana is to review and
10 approve the budget, to select and evaluate the chief, to hear
11 complaints against the chief or against the department. Look
12 at that and say, You know what, we think that we should also
13 have the power to do this or that, something else. Or when it
14 talks about the qualifications of the chief, you may want to
15 look at that and say, Oh, yeah, that's adequate or not
16 adequate.

17 You know, in other words, I'm -- I'm afraid to give
18 too many detailed examples because I might be injecting my own
19 opinions into your discussion. So take a look at that. If
20 you don't have a copy of the charter handy, just -- it's
21 available online at the county's website and -- I'm sorry,
22 Donna, I'm not sure whether I answered your question.

23 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Hi. Yeah, you answered my
24 question. It just kind of brought it to a head of what -- you
25 know, not so general, but I got it. Thanks.

1 MR. MURAI: Okay.

2 COMMISSIONER STERLING: And I will review, yeah.
3 Thanks.

4 MR. MURAI: So, anyway, that would be my
5 recommendation, that we carry this over as an agenda item for
6 the next meeting and, you know, between now and then, the
7 members think about it and come to the next meeting prepared
8 to either offer suggestions or even say, You know what, it's
9 good, leave it alone. That's, you know, up to you folks.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Thank you, Donna and
11 Gary.

12 Anybody else have any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, so we'll do that. We'll
15 put another -- we'll put this on the agenda for the next
16 meeting so that we can have a discussion on if anybody has any
17 comments or potential revisions to the county charter. Thank
18 you, Gary.

19 MR. MURAI: You're welcome.

20 CHAIR GINOZA: So let's -- let's move on to the
21 public testimony. Chief Thyne, has anybody signed up to
22 testify?

23 CHIEF THYNE: No, Chair, nobody signed up to
24 testify.

25 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Is anybody on the call wanting

1 to testify? Please speak up.

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, I'll close public
4 testimony.

5 Next, we move on to Maui Emergency Management
6 Agency, MEMA. Herman, you have the floor.

7 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair
8 and Commissioners. The month of March was a very busy time
9 for this agency, and we were dealing with a tsunami warning,
10 an overflowing dam, flooding in Haiku that washed away homes
11 and infrastructure, and on top of that, an upticking number of
12 COVID cases here in the County of Maui. So, yeah, it's
13 been -- it's been a very busy month for us.

14 During the Haiku flooding, the emergency operations
15 center was activated, and we had numerous agencies, including
16 (inaudible). With the Kaupakalua Dam overflowing in Haiku, we
17 did make the decision to evacuate residents in the area. And
18 in these situations, MEMA utilized a number of methods for
19 emergency public messaging, and this including using Makaala,
20 which is the -- excuse me, the county's emergency alert
21 system. We used that to send out messaging via email, text,
22 and voicemail. We also used the emergency alert system, so
23 this is the system that you normally hear like on TV and on
24 the radio, and this -- we also used this to send out messaging
25 regarding evacuation. We also used what's called the wireless

1 emergency alert system, and this is where we send out
2 messaging to cellular phones in the area using geofencing. So
3 we can indicate on a map like all cellular phones in this
4 area, we want to send this messaging regarding evacuations.
5 And then we also, of course, used sirens as well. So as you
6 can see, we use a number of systems, you know, again, because
7 of redundancy. We want to make sure that we get this
8 messaging out to everyone in the community, and so that's the
9 reason why we use a number of systems in order to get that
10 out.

11 The owners of the Kaupakalua Dam were at the site 24
12 hours a day for several days and was providing hourly reports
13 to the EOC. And although the dam was being drained, the
14 amount of rain Haiku received caused the reservoir to quickly
15 fill up again, and so because of that, we needed constant
16 monitoring. When the rain subsided, our dam assessment crews
17 were sent out to categorize damages to residential units and
18 to public infrastructure. We had about 75 residents -- or 75
19 units that were affected by the floods, and we also had a
20 number of infrastructures, public infrastructures that were
21 affected as well from dams being washed out to roads being
22 damaged.

23 So in the month of March, we also conducted a joint
24 preliminary damage assessment. FEMA flew in, and we --
25 together we verified the damages, and we met -- we were able

1 to meet the threshold as a result. And so now we're awaiting
2 approval from President Biden, and once he issues a
3 presidential declaration for the Haiku floods, we will then be
4 able to apply for FEMA reimbursements. So it's risen to that
5 level where we may be able to get a presidential declaration.

6 With respect to the pandemic, last month, the mayor
7 assigned MEMA with the planning and operations of a post-
8 travel testing program at the Kahului Airport, and you've
9 probably heard about this in the news. This role would be
10 similar to the testing program at the Kona Airport. And so,
11 our staff has been working feverishly on creating the
12 operational plan and logistics for this program.

13 With respect to hurricane preparedness, we are one
14 and a half months away from the start of hurricane season, and
15 so for that reason, we are ramping up our public messaging
16 regarding emergency preparedness and encouraging the public to
17 sign up for Makaala. We also have upgraded Makaala, and so we
18 will be able to send out messaging automatically via Twitter,
19 Instagram, and Facebook. We are also going to start -- start
20 with radio and television ads as well as creating rack cards,
21 posters, banners, everything to really encourage emergency
22 preparedness.

23 What we also will start doing is we'll be working
24 with the visitor industry on putting rack cards in the rooms
25 with a QR code. So if you want to know what emergencies or

1 what -- what's occurring right now today on Maui, you can just
2 scan that QR code, and it would go to a web -- webpage that
3 will have a list of alerts or notifications for that day. So
4 this is primarily because of that -- what occurred in Hana
5 with the people who -- who died as a result of going hiking
6 and everything. And so we want to let the public know that,
7 you know, if there is a flash flood warning, advisory, or
8 watch, it may not be a good time to go hiking, so that's the
9 kind of messaging we want to get out to the public.

10 And then, of course, you know, we're gonna continue
11 doing training and exercises in preparation for hurricane
12 season. So that's -- that's all I have, Mr. Chair, for now.
13 I'm open to any questions, if there are any.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Herman.

15 Any questions? I see one from Donna. Donna.

16 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Hi. Thank you, Chair.

17 Herman, I had a question about how -- in a disaster,
18 how involved is MEMA in -- with the ham radio usage if --
19 should there be -- do you utilize the ham radio services?

20 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair. Commissioner
21 Sterling, that's a very good question. Actually, so during an
22 activation, we do have ham radio operators here in the EOC.
23 There are also two of us here that are licensed ham radio
24 operators, so myself as well as Everett Balmores in our
25 office. But we have members of the ham radio club who meet

1 here at EOC every month, but they are here 24 hours during
2 activation, and we've used them in the past. There has been
3 times when communications have gone down, and so we've used
4 them to send out communications to Honolulu or to other ham
5 radio operators here on Maui. So we do place great importance
6 in -- on the work that they do, ham radio operators.

7 Also, this year in our budget, we've asked the
8 council to put in \$10,000 for a new ham radio -- ham radio for
9 our offices. And the reason why we're asking for that is
10 because now, nowadays, they have ham radios that have greater
11 capability. For instance, now you can send computer files,
12 photographs over ham radio signals, and so we did put that in
13 the budget and, hopefully, we will get support from the
14 council for that.

15 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Great. Thank you very much,
16 Herman. I'm glad to hear that.

17 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Commissioner.

18 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other commissioner? Lisa.

19 VICE CHAIR VARES: Good morning, Herman. It is
20 wonderful to hear all the (inaudible) such an important
21 program for both tourists (inaudible). How did Makaala
22 (inaudible) hearing that is an immediate (inaudible).

23 CHAIR GINOZA: You keep cutting out.

24 VICE CHAIR VARES: Is that any better? Hold on. I
25 tell you what, I'm going to follow your advice and turn off my

1 camera, and --

2 All right. I'm going to try again. Can you hear
3 me, Herman?

4 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. How did Makaala perform
6 during floods in Haiku? Was Haiku, with its sporadic cell
7 service, were those residents able to react quickly
8 considering it was a (inaudible) threat?

9 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Mr. Chair. Commissioner
10 Vares, that's also a very good question. And as I mentioned
11 earlier, we -- we employ a number of alert systems for that --
12 for that very reason. Because cellphone service out there is
13 sporadic, we -- we use a number of ways of getting the --
14 getting emergency messaging out. And so that's where we use
15 the EAS, the emergency alert system; we use the wireless
16 emergency alert system; we also used the sirens. We had sent
17 out press releases. We had the mayor amplifying that
18 messaging. We had his office, the PIO office amplifying that
19 messaging. We used radio. We used TV. So we use a number of
20 ways to get the message out because for that very reason that
21 you mentioned that, you know, in the event that one doesn't
22 work, you know, we want to make sure that -- it's very, very
23 critical that people get this information, and so that's the
24 reason why we use redundancy in this office for that, for that
25 matter, for that reason.

1 VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you so much. I think it
2 really helped in preserving life. We couldn't preserve
3 property, but at least people got out of harm's way. So thank
4 you.

5 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other commissioner have any
7 questions?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Seeing none, thank you very much,
10 Herman.

11 MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: I'd like to move on to the fire
13 department. Chief Thyne.

14 CHIEF THYNE: Chair, thanks. Good morning again.
15 Let's see. I'll start off looking at the agenda. The first
16 item is Chief's Announcement. My wife has always said that
17 the firemen are the worst secret keepers in the world, so if
18 you know a fireman, you probably know the announcement
19 already, but I do want to let you folks know that I -- I will
20 be retiring from the fire service as your fire chief -- well,
21 unless I get a bad evaluation and you guys fire me -- on
22 July 1 of this year. I wanted to give you enough time -- I
23 didn't want to make this like a ceremonial thing, but I did
24 want to give you folks enough time to do the recruitment and
25 go through the process for my successor. So I'll save the --

1 you know, the whole closing comments things for, you know, a
2 future meeting, but I will just say thank you for the
3 opportunity to serve with you and for you this past three
4 years, and we'll finish strong, I promise you that. So thank
5 you for that, and I'll just move on to the next agenda item.

6 So one of the things that I was noticing on our
7 calls, as you can see and you can anticipate if you've been
8 out and about in our community lately, we've had a lot of
9 increased visitor traffic, so you will see an uptick in alarms
10 or incidents, as we say, as you look at that particular
11 graphic. And you'll notice also that our fires dropped to
12 roughly half of -- of the previous month's, and that's due to
13 what Herman was mentioning, the rain and the different
14 climate, you know, effects there.

15 Just highlighting quickly on the training, I'd like
16 to just make sure you folks understand that report, but one of
17 the things that we focused on this past quarter were we're
18 very proud of, and we're thankful that Captain Robson, who we
19 mentioned, Chief Lindo, and our health and safety bureau with
20 our safety officer program, we did a multi-vehicle accident
21 for extraction, as we call it, training. If you were down in
22 the Hammerhead Metals area where the car recycling and
23 whatnot, heavy metals recycling, you may have seen our crews
24 down there. If you weren't, I'll just say briefly it was a
25 chance for us to really look at one of our higher call

1 volumes, and that's auto extrication and auto accidents,
2 unfortunately. But it was a chance to put together a great
3 training program, and they integrated some other facets of our
4 operations into that. They evaluated each crew by our
5 battalion chiefs as well, and our training bureau and health
6 and safety bureau facilitated that. So that was a great
7 opportunity for us to really collectively work together to
8 continue our efforts to keep our folks highly trained and
9 ready and prepared for what they deal with out on the line.
10 So we're proud of that.

11 Obviously, for this time of year, one of the
12 highlights is working with our mayoral and department staff as
13 well as, you know, our council members on our budget. We --
14 Chief Ventura took you folks through our budget at the past
15 couple of meetings. We anticipate having an update for you as
16 soon as council has a chance to -- well, they've heard
17 everybody now. In fact, today is their day to kind of start
18 absorbing all of the different department's inputs and
19 questions and answers that we provided. We hope to provide
20 you in your packet in the near future the questions that they
21 asked of us to give you an understanding of what your council
22 members are requesting of us as a department. And so it's
23 just about 50 questions or so that they asked, each council
24 member kind of had the opportunity to -- to ask some questions
25 that were nagging on them or just things they wanted more

1 explanation on. That went very smoothly. We felt that they
2 got the answers that they requested and required. There were
3 very little follow-up questions. So we look forward to
4 continuing to work with them on -- on getting our final budget
5 approved and then moving forward into the new fiscal year. So
6 we'll look forward to an update for you folks on the next
7 meeting, hopefully or shortly after that. So that's kind of
8 page 1.

9 You see our kind of back and forth with the mayor's
10 office. They did approach us, Managing Director Baz, very
11 briefly about potentially our personnel that are on the
12 beaches, our ocean safety officers, maybe doing some public
13 messaging and whatnot with the increased visitor traffic, lack
14 of mask-wearing, that type of thing. So we talked to our
15 staff and our union reps on the ocean safety side. They
16 didn't have issues with -- with taking a more educational
17 approach versus an enforcement approach, but they -- I guess
18 the mayor's office decided to go a different route, and we
19 never had to take that on, but we still were available if they
20 needed us and we'll continue to be available if they want us
21 to help get the messaging out to our visitors when they come
22 to our shores, keeping them safe on the beaches and whatnot.

23 So, again, county council interaction, we talked
24 about. We did have some -- some meetings related to our Haiku
25 Fire Station property. I know Vice Chair Vares is very

1 familiar with that property. They helped us out on some --
2 some work out there. But that -- that particular project has
3 kind of started to gain some momentum. Commissioner -- excuse
4 me, Councilmember Molina and then the mayor also have
5 prioritized the Haiku Fire Station project for funding. As
6 you may or may not know, we've had that property for
7 approximately 12 to 13 years as a county asset. They just
8 haven't been able to really get the project through.

9 The community has if you Google it and look at the
10 census, about 8,000 people in the Haiku-Huelo community, as
11 far as what the census says, anyway, and, of course, our
12 closest station is Paia. Our closest station is Paia, so, you
13 know, it's -- like everything else, if you ask the fire
14 department, we're gonna say we want a fire station in each
15 major community we have. We'd love to have one out with Donna
16 in Kahikinui, and we'd love to have another one out in Waiehu
17 or Wailuku area and out on the West Maui's and everything.
18 So, you know, we'll see what happens with Haiku. We'll keep
19 you posted, but it's moving through the process, and we're
20 trying to get the community on board with supporting the
21 current site on where it's at, and we'll keep you posted on
22 that.

23 And then that's about it other than Launiupoko also
24 has some increased concerns related to fires and what they can
25 do as a community association. That's the last block on your

1 handout there on page 3. They sent in a list of questions
2 from their community association, and so we've been kind of
3 answering them and trying to guide them on how they can
4 support us and -- and look at different ways to potentially
5 solicit or look towards possibly getting a fire station out in
6 the Ukumehame, Olowalu, and Launiupoko area that stretches out
7 on the other side of Lahainaluna Road that's being more and
8 more populated as time goes by and further and further away
9 from Lahaina Station.

10 So that's my update. If there's any questions, I'm
11 standing by to provide responses.

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Thyne.

13 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Hi. Chair, I had a
14 question.

15 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Thyne.

16 Donna.

17 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So, Chief, thank you for the
18 report. Hate to see you go. You know, I -- you're right, we
19 would like to see more fire stations in the rural areas as our
20 populations grow. What is the process? I -- Launiupoko, you
21 said, put a community association letter together and
22 forwarded it to -- is it the prevention or is it to the Maui
23 FF -- MFD, Maui Fire Department? How does the -- what
24 triggers the -- the need for a fire department? Just a basic,
25 what is the process?

1 CHIEF THYNE: Commissioner Sterling, thanks. Yeah,
2 so, I mean, you know, what -- so to answer the first part of
3 your question, so they sent a -- we have a -- I'll call it a
4 generic Maui Fire Department email. That's the one that if
5 you go to the county website, it says fire.department@
6 maucounty.gov or something like that. You'll see it on our
7 web -- website. And that's answered normally by Richelle or
8 Chaz, the other assistant in the office there. And they
9 monitor that, and then they'll kick anything our way that has
10 questions related to what we have to answer. A lot of them,
11 they'll direct them to our fire prevention and wherever it's
12 appropriate. But in this particular case, it was questions
13 directed to the administration, and so I answered those
14 questions, and we've been kind of engaging in a little bit of
15 back and forth.

16 So to answer your question more directly, though,
17 like in your case for Kahikinui -- so I used Pukoo as an
18 example. Pukoo Fire Station on the island of Molokai several
19 years ago -- well, actually, decades ago now, the community
20 that was established out there wanted to get a fire station,
21 and so they did a full-court press on the council and the
22 mayor, they were all administration at the time. I wasn't
23 involved in it, so I can't tell you exactly which buttons to
24 push, but I can tell you that you really have to get your
25 council representative and then the mayor behind -- because

1 what we have at Pukoo is a two-person station. It's not your
2 normal, quote/unquote, fully staffed fire station, it's --
3 it's a -- it was a fix at the time because what they really
4 wanted was paramedics out there. They wanted a medical
5 response unit, but -- but that's a private company, that's
6 American Medical Response, AMR, as you see on the ambulance.
7 And so at the time, the council member, which was, I believe,
8 Pat Kuwano, and the mayor and folks worked together, and they
9 were able to provide that fire resource because we are first
10 responders and could help the community in that regard. And
11 that resource has stayed there up until now and for the
12 foreseeable future.

13 So, anyway, that's kind of more appropriate for the
14 level of response you're probably thinking about for Kahikinui
15 and the back side, and so that would be, again, just working
16 with your council members and engaging in that conversation
17 and garnering community support for that effort.

18 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Thank you.

19 CHIEF THYNE: So I know if anybody can do it, you
20 can.

21 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Not without support from
22 Maui Fire Department. Thank you, Chief. Excellent.

23 Thank you, Chair.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

25 Any other commissioners have any questions or

1 comments for the chief?

2 VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

4 VICE CHAIR VARES: So sad to hear that you're
5 retiring. I'm really happy for you that you're retiring, but
6 for the rest of us, I'd like to just say (inaudible). We'd
7 like to keep you as long as we can, but congratulations.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

9 Any other commissioners have any questions or
10 comments?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Chief.

13 And I believe next meeting we'll go over kind of the
14 process of how we will do the -- the next chief selection.
15 And I believe, based on the composition of the current
16 commission, I believe only myself and Gregg Lundberg,
17 Commissioner Lundberg, had participated in the prior process.
18 But, basically, Richelle does a posting in the Maui News and
19 The Advertiser and such, and then we get a bunch of
20 applications. And at least the last -- and I'd like to kind
21 of explain what we did that I recollect so that we can think
22 about it for the next meeting. But the last time we did kind
23 of a subcommittee to have not the full commission, but a
24 smaller committee of commissioners review the applications and
25 kind of rate the applications to see, you know, who we'd like

1 to interview as a full commission. But I believe since we
2 only have seven members, that subcommittee can be only like
3 three members. So that's something to think about if we want
4 to develop a committee at the next meeting or if all members
5 would like to participate in reviewing applications and
6 rating. And then what we did was once we came up with that
7 and came up with some questions, then as part of the full
8 commission, we had a day-long of interviews and discussions.

9 So you can kind of the process as being maybe the
10 advertisement going out, the applications coming in, we either
11 as a full commission or as a smaller commission, a
12 subcommittee, kind of reviewing and rating applications and
13 deciding questions and who we'd actually to interview of the
14 candidates, if there -- you know, if there's 20 applicants, we
15 probably would take only a handful of them, at the most; but
16 if there are only a handful, then perhaps we just interview
17 them all. So that's something to kind of consider.

18 And maybe I'm overstepping my bounds since I see
19 Gary kind of saying something. Yes, Gary.

20 MR. MURAI: Kyle, you read my mind. And, actually,
21 you know what, what you said at the end causes me not to have
22 to stop you. But I would suggest that -- I appreciate that
23 overview of your experience with the last go-around. I would
24 suggest we do this, that -- your comments are all well
25 taken -- for the next meeting, we place on the agenda the --

1 an item regarding what process or procedure the commission is
2 going to take to solicit applications and, you know, for --
3 for our next chief and, you know, what process is going to be.

4 You know, again, you know, as you point out, you
5 only have seven members, so -- you know, that's the kind of
6 thing you can talk about, everybody going to participate or
7 form a subcommittee. We can talk about that the next time,
8 and the next time we can make decisions on how to go forward.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: So, Gary, are you saying that we
10 cannot have the department issue a -- issue in the paper that
11 we have something so -- I'm just wondering about time. If
12 Chief Thyne is leaving July 1st, how -- you know, if we wait
13 until the May meeting to decide whether or not to advertise
14 and if it's open, say, a month, it'll be kind of a quick
15 timeline of -- I mean, I look to your direction on that.

16 MR. MURAI: You know what, you know what, Kyle,
17 yeah, I understand the announcement is coming out soon, but as
18 far -- and I -- you know, I -- I think we can start -- since
19 it looks like the department is already starting to solicit
20 applications, we can do that.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

22 MR. MURAI: But the next step would be, okay, we've
23 got applications, what do we do with them, how do we process
24 them, and that's something that we can -- well, that's another
25 thing too. If time is short, we don't necessarily have to

1 wait another full month for our next regular meeting. If you
2 want to get the ball rolling sooner, then you can also
3 consider whether you want to schedule a meeting -- not wait
4 another month. Maybe look at maybe two weeks from now and
5 maybe have a limited agenda just on that one -- one item.

6 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Gary.

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Donna.

9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Gary, I like that
10 (inaudible) to address Gary -- Kyle's concern. I had a
11 concern, too, that time is short, but maybe we could have that
12 second meet -- another meeting in between May, the
13 commissioners and you, of course, and -- and come up with a
14 defined next step process. I like that, yeah. So
15 considerations.

16 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah, I think -- I mean, if we -- if
17 they follow other county procurements or county postings where
18 it's like at least a month of them having it open, by the next
19 meeting, we still wouldn't have applications, so I think we
20 can just have a thorough discussion at the next meeting. I
21 mean, if -- if the body prefers to have something in between,
22 we can, but I was thinking perhaps after the next meeting
23 having something, a special meeting if we need it. But we
24 won't have any applications to review per se before the next
25 meeting.

1 MR. MURAI: You know what, Mr. Chair, can I suggest
2 that we pause this discussion for right now.

3 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay.

4 MR. MURAI: And then take it up when we get up to
5 the last item, which would be scheduling our next meeting date
6 and talking about a proposed agenda for the next meeting.

7 CHAIR GINOZA: Sure. Thank you.

8 Okay. Unless anybody has any more questions for
9 Chief Thyne? Thank you, Chief. And we'll move on to Deputy
10 Chief Ventura.

11 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody.
12 Thank you for being here. Hopefully, you'll have your -- my
13 report before you. This past month we did go through a
14 promotional process for our hazmat company, that's the
15 firefighter 2 position. We had four candidates that qualified
16 for interview, and we promoted one of them. It's always one
17 of our tough promotions because going from firefighter 1 to
18 firefighter 2, those are very motivated individuals, they all
19 qualify for the job, they all could do an absolutely wonderful
20 job on that -- on that apparatus, but we can only choose one
21 because there's only one position available.

22 And then our recruit class, which we hope to start
23 July 1, we've done our first wave of our agility and our
24 interviews. We interviewed 20 candidates back at the end of
25 March, and then we have another 20 candidates taking the

1 agility on May 1st, that's coming up shortly.

2 The department improvement committee: I did talk to
3 you guys briefly about this new hose requirement for our fire
4 ground operations, and they are actively getting a video done
5 so that they can disseminate that to all the crews, and we can
6 kind of change the way we operate our small-diameter hose
7 lines on the trucks.

8 Union Interactions: We have supplemental agreements
9 that are another layer on top of our collective bargaining
10 agreement with the unions, and so we just kind of re-upped,
11 we'll call it, because this is something we do every year to
12 reestablish clear direction for those four particular items.

13 So the bureau opportunity incentive pay is something
14 that you get if you work Monday through Friday at the
15 department versus if you work on the fire trucks and working
16 24 hours, so there's a policy on how we pay that out that we
17 have with the union.

18 The continuous duty for remote stations, so our
19 remote stations are Lanai and Hana, they work three days
20 straight and so in the union contract, those employees would
21 be going into double-time already, but due to this agreement,
22 they're able to stay on regular time and then they only incur
23 overtime between the 72- and 96-hour period. So if they're
24 stuck working a fourth day, then they would get overtime on
25 the fourth day, and then the double time wouldn't kick in

1 until the fifth day. So that's just a remote station, those
2 two stations are very unique, but that's the agreement we have
3 out there.

4 The four 10s, this agreement had to be created
5 because our payroll system in Workday would not just allow us
6 to put somebody on a schedule which is four days a week, 10
7 hours a day, without having an MOA with the union. So we have
8 that agreement with the union, and now they can make a rule
9 Workday so that people can work that schedule.

10 And then the travel allowance is just for outer
11 island travel when people go and teach, or the mechanics go
12 over there so that they get a \$20 stipend when they travel
13 outer island.

14 HGEA, we have -- continue to move along with the
15 current policies that we're working on with them. Their union
16 is very active with their members, which is a good thing,
17 'cause then we get a lot of input from them when we're writing
18 policy, but it can sometimes slow down the process 'cause
19 there's like ten back-and-forths a lot of times. But, you
20 know, we still diligently continue to work on it so we can
21 kind of come to an agreement what these policies should look
22 like, so we're continuing to work on the seniority policy,
23 which is really close, and then the rescue watercraft
24 differential.

25 The transmittals from the public you can see at the

1 bottom are related to a tower in the North Shore, which we
2 only would staff occasionally. And so recently, we've
3 relooked at our staffing plan, and we have tried to staff that
4 tower more consistently. And ocean safety doesn't have
5 minimum standards like fire, so they don't have like we need
6 four firefighters on a truck every day no matter what.
7 Whereas, ocean safety doesn't have that guideline for a tower
8 or the size of the beach or the number of people on the beach
9 or the number -- or a jet ski or not a jet ski. There's no
10 standards for staffing, so we're trying to create a staffing
11 model that can cover the needs of the community. And during
12 March and spring break, our beach numbers were very, very
13 high, so we staffed that tower in Kanaha that's not normally
14 staffed, and that's the reason for all those responses from
15 the community. People who had, like, very rarely seen an
16 ocean safety lifeguard at that tower were very grateful that
17 there was staff there providing safety for the community kids.
18 So those last three comments are all kind of tied together on
19 that staffing that tower that we did during spring break.
20 We'll be able to continue that if the budget allows.

21 That concludes my comments for the month. Any
22 questions?

23 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Ventura.

24 Does any commissioner have any questions or
25 comments?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Seeing none, let's move
3 on to Chief Lindo.

4 CHIEF LINDO: Thank you, Chair. Good morning,
5 Commissioners. I'm filling in for Chief Kawasaki. So you
6 guys should have the report in front of you as far as
7 operations for March. Some of the major incidents is right
8 there in front of you. One of the big things was that
9 commercial structure fire, which took a lot of resources. You
10 know, when something like that happens, it uses a lot of
11 resources, so we've gotta figure things out to take care of
12 the rest of the island. So that worked out.

13 As far as our standard operating guidelines,
14 revisions are happening right now, and then as we move
15 forward, we're looking to adopt. It's pretty cut and clear,
16 but people from the department can continue to provide
17 requests to those standard operating guidelines.

18 As far as apparatus and equipment, we have Chief
19 Kawasaki and a couple of our members up there in Wisconsin
20 right now for the final inspection on Engine 1 and Engine 3,
21 as well as the Engine 2 preconstruction meeting. Hazmat
22 utility has been placed in service.

23 For our training bureau, the incumbent training,
24 Chief Thyne covered our multi-company extrication evaluation.
25 That went really well. We were able to do some good

1 interagency interaction with our Maui Police Department as far
2 as traffic accident scene preservation.

3 Chief Ventura covered the new Recruit Class 37 and
4 the agility test that we've had. Hopefully, we'll be able to
5 start the class in July. And then construction on the joint
6 training center continues.

7 In our ocean safety, we want to continue to bridge a
8 lot of the gaps. So you see that ongoing policy and procedure
9 development, I mean, it's continuing to set up our brothers
10 and sisters in ocean safety for success and really merge ocean
11 safety and the fire department into one unit.

12 So that's everything going forward. I am open to
13 any questions that you guys have.

14 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Lindo.

15 Does any commissioner have any questions?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you.
18 Let's move on to Chief Werner.

19 ASSISTANT CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, Commission
20 Members. My bureau updates, I'll start with the fire
21 prevention bureau. So last month, they finished that pub ed
22 video that I was talking to you about. Fire 2 reviewed it and
23 approved it, and then it was sent to the department of
24 education for them to approve to make sure the content was in
25 line with their standards, and then that will be put out to

1 the children.

2 One of the projects that has taken a big demand of
3 the time of the entire bureau is that MAPPS program, that's
4 the Maui's Automated Planning and Permitting System, and
5 that's the new countywide system that's replacing Kiva. And
6 they've had to involve everybody because they're doing the
7 creating of the permits, and then once those permits are
8 created, they do practicing with them to make sure that they
9 work correctly online. And then, as the permits are created
10 and they come in, they're testing the approval process as
11 well. And each member of the bureau is -- has a role in that,
12 so they've had to go bring everybody in to do training. So if
13 you look at the plans review section, our numbers have dropped
14 down a little bit, and that's a result of the amount of time
15 and demand of their time that they've had to put into MAPPS.

16 I met with the captain of the prevention bureau, and
17 we looked at the budget to see if there's wiggle room in there
18 for overtime for guys who work on the weekends to try to catch
19 up on the permits, and so they're gonna start doing that
20 throughout the end of the fiscal year.

21 Moving on to the health and safety bureau, one of
22 the situations they've been dealing with is the Airgas is no
23 longer providing oxygen cylinders to Molokai, so we're working
24 on different scenarios to gets oxygen over there to the guys.
25 I think we've got a pretty good plan in place, but we're

1 gonna -- we're just checking out two other options, and then
2 we'll make a final decision on that.

3 The forklift certification class was completed. We
4 now have three in-house trainers, so we can do all of our
5 training in-house.

6 And they also completed the training for our call
7 back team to do medical monitoring and rehab during multiple
8 incidents, so we've got a list ready to go for that.

9 And then, one of the things we've been spending a
10 lot of time on is looking at a warehouse inventory/management
11 software program, so we've been attending demos with different
12 software providers for that. We're one of the few departments
13 in the county that has a pretty large warehouse, and we have
14 one person in there trying to manage that entire thing, and so
15 we thought this was something that would help him be able to
16 manage that better. So we've been working on that.

17 Moving on to the budget planning and appropriations
18 committee, we have finally wrapped up our medical director
19 contract for the remainder of FY '21.

20 We had given notice to proceed on the three
21 extractors for Paia, Napili, and Kula, so they're gonna start
22 moving forward on purchasing and putting those in place; as
23 well as that chemical that I had talked to you about last
24 month that the mayor had approved, hazmat worked with the --
25 the corp. counsel to come up with a contract for that, and so

1 the notice to proceed is expected to go out the month of
2 April.

3 And then the grants team, they're working on an
4 audit. Any time that we receive a grant, we have to keep very
5 careful records, and we can be audited at any time, so we are
6 currently going through an audit with the department of
7 transportation for a grant that we received.

8 And then, finally, the Mini 7, the bid opened for
9 that, and Hughes Fire won the bid for that, so we're gonna
10 start moving on building the new Mini 7.

11 Those are the updates I have for you. I'm happy to
12 answer any questions that you might have.

13 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Werner.

14 Does any commissioner have any questions?

15 (No response.)

16 CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, let's move
17 on to our guest presenter, Chief Ventura.

18 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Welcome back,
19 everybody. I'm gonna try to share screen here, so -- all
20 right. Good morning. Can everybody see the strategic plan on
21 the screen?

22 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

23 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. Great.

24 So we provided this to you all. I hope you have a
25 copy of it in your packet and received this -- that you

1 received this week. It's somewhat of a lengthy read. It's
2 about 40 pages, so I'm definitely not gonna go over it word by
3 word, but I want to give you kind of some background, where
4 we've been along this journey and then where we are today.

5 So historically, we have -- we started our strategic
6 planning with Chief Ishikawa in 2002. One of the first
7 departments, for sure, in the county to do strategic planning,
8 so, you know, we looked to them for having great vision and
9 thinking ahead and putting this model in place for us. The
10 plan was revised in 2007, 2010, '13, and '16. And so here we
11 are with our current revision, which is a five-year strategic
12 plan. And it's also gone through different iterations,
13 whether it was a company that we used to help us create our
14 strategic plan, or we did it internally with a large group or
15 internally with a small group. So this most recent one was --
16 basically, due to COVID, there was a little bit of, you know,
17 newness to it. We couldn't have large groups of people come
18 in and discuss topics, so we really had to do it in bite-sized
19 pieces.

20 So we created seven -- sorry, six different
21 initiatives, and we put people kind of -- not in charge, but
22 as coordinators of those initiatives because what we wanted to
23 do was wanted to invite people in and have open, comfortable
24 dialogue so that it wasn't the chief's office or
25 administration telling people exactly what we're gonna do in

1 the future. We wanted to get the input of every level of
2 every employee, you know, within ocean safety, within our
3 firefighter ranks, our captains as well, and just have a
4 conversation about what does the future of our department look
5 like and what we can do to move forward.

6 So the first few pages here talk about -- you know,
7 our executive summary of the department history is an
8 interesting read. There's a lot of facts in here that we had
9 to kind of dig around through and find, but, you know, it kind
10 of lays out a pretty good chronology of how the department was
11 formed and when things opened, who was involved, and then
12 where we are today.

13 The department org. chart here, as you guys well
14 know, this is just kind of a really high overview of our
15 administration and where our operations fall within our
16 different programs, what our county looks like, the
17 demographics and whatnot, then our mission statement, and we
18 break it down. Our mission statement is very pure and simple,
19 but then we elaborate upon the -- the main parts of life,
20 environment, and property, and what they mean to us.

21 Our vision, core, and our values kind of add to our
22 mission, and they just kind of further give guidance and depth
23 about, you know, who we are as an organization and how we feel
24 about certain things. And so those -- those were revised
25 partially, but not completely by the committee that worked on

1 the strategic plan.

2 And then what does our department resources look
3 like is our department demographics, the districts we serve,
4 how many companies are in each district, and then the type of
5 apparatus that we have available to serve the community.

6 The achievements here, many of them are from the
7 last two years, but some of these were taken out of the whole
8 strategic plan that we just committed -- completed, sorry, and
9 those achievements -- so these achievements is over like a
10 five-year period, the previous strategic plan. And then once
11 this '21 through '25 strategic plan is completed, then
12 hopefully we'll have a whole 'nother list of achievements that
13 can go into the next strategic plan, you know, to show our
14 accomplishments.

15 So then we get to the meat and potatoes of the
16 strategic plan, and, like I said, it was broken down into six
17 different initiatives, and each one was broken down into
18 goals. The goals were written very broad so that we could try
19 to encompass as many things as possible. If they were to be
20 very specifically written with our strategic plan, those items
21 in the strategic plan would be accomplished, and then that
22 part of the plan would be kind of done in the past and kind of
23 null and void. So we wanted to write things in a broad way so
24 that a specific goal could have multiple objectives
25 underneath.

1 So as you read through these initiatives, we have
2 our communication, our financial, our health and wellness,
3 our -- our operations, physical resources, and then lastly is
4 training. They're in no particular order except alphabetical.
5 There's no one that is more of a priority over the other.
6 They're just there -- they're all very important to, you know,
7 many members of our department. And what's really good and
8 the feeling that we got from all of the input of people that
9 were involved, is that we're gonna try to create a -- several
10 subcommittees on particular topics within this strategic plan,
11 but people who are passionate about certain subjects in our
12 department, whether it's a type of training or a health and
13 wellness program or, you know, trying to provide more grant
14 opportunities for our department, whatever their passion is,
15 we'll form a committee, we'll try to get them to do some
16 research and help us move our department forward.

17 And we're very lucky, our department is filled with
18 a lot of very dedicated, talented, and wanting to help people,
19 and so I think this next five years -- although this strategic
20 plan does literally have a ton of stuff in it, I think we're
21 gonna be able to get a lot of things done.

22 So that, in a sense, is the overview of this. We
23 have some kind of historical pictures here on the back and a
24 little mahalo to everybody who was involved. Our comment and
25 overview is basically everybody who we worked with to gather

1 input, we asked them to discuss it at their stations with
2 their members before they come in. 'Cause we couldn't have,
3 obviously, 300 people in an auditorium during COVID to go over
4 all of this, and so they -- they had multiple opportunities to
5 discuss with us and then discuss with members of the
6 department and then come back to us and then we put everything
7 on paper. And so this is our final product, and I'm open to
8 any questions you folks have.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair.

11 CHAIR GINOZA: Chief Ventura.

12 Donna.

13 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah. Chief Ventura, thank
14 you for the report. I had a question. The spiral binder
15 Strategic Plan '21 to '25 is really an excellent job. My
16 question is when you -- who distributed the books? Who got
17 the books that we have as commissioners? Is it to all of the
18 commissions?

19 DEPUTY CHIEF VENTURA: So we will distribute it on
20 multiple levels. You guys have the first physical copies
21 today because we were announcing it to you folks. It went
22 live on the county website, so it's completely open to the
23 world. We will -- we have distributed electronically to our
24 whole department, and hard copies will follow shortly. So,
25 you know, it's -- like you said, it's a good product, and we

1 want people to see it, and we want people to understand where
2 we're going and what our plans are for the future, so we won't
3 stop there. The places I had mentioned and I think council
4 members should also have it. I think our mayor is a very
5 important part of our team and that he should have this as
6 well.

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Excellent. Great. Good
8 job. Thank you.

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Any other commissioners have any
10 questions?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, thank you, Chief
13 Ventura.

14 Let's move on to the -- the next agenda item, which
15 is annually we, as a commission, need to do a performance
16 review of the chief, and it's that time again. I don't know
17 if Gary wants to provide some insight on if there's a
18 particular process we need to follow for the next meeting.
19 Gary.

20 MR. MURAI: You know what, Mr. Chair, I've never
21 staffed the commission when we've done -- done a chief's
22 review at the annual review before. I would suggest that we
23 put it on the agenda for the next meeting for -- to decide on
24 a process. And then between now and then, I'll ask the staff
25 to provide to the commission, you know, things like the -- the

1 scoring sheets, the questions and things like that so that the
2 commission can decide whether to use those or whether to, you
3 know, alter them, change the questions, change the criteria,
4 you know, that kind of thing.

5 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Excellent.

6 Any commissioner have any questions on the process
7 and what we need to do?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Let's move on to the next meeting
10 date, then. So we have the next meeting scheduled for
11 May 20th at 10:00 a.m. again. So do commissioners -- does any
12 commission want to have a special meeting in the interim?
13 Like I said, we won't have any applications before then, and
14 perhaps the next meeting will last a little bit longer than
15 our typical meeting because we need to kind of figure out the
16 process. We have a couple more agenda items than we
17 ordinarily do, but I still think we can get through the
18 meeting for next month. But I'm open to any recommendations
19 or suggestions.

20 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Chair.

21 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Donna.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So, could you reiterate what
23 you just said so it's processed in my head? Forgive me,
24 but -- so the chief is resigning in July, applications are
25 gonna come between April and May, right?

1 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER STERLING: And then -- so we have seven
3 of nine commissioners, we don't know when the other two are
4 jumping on board, and does it matter for the process? I don't
5 know. And so the question will be if we want a meeting to
6 talk about the subcommittee and the process before -- before
7 the applications are received or after. Is that what -- is
8 that where we're at?

9 CHAIR GINOZA: Yes. So I think what will happen is
10 say the -- the advertisement for the next chief comes out in
11 the next however long, in the next week, say, and they give a
12 month, that'll be -- we'd receive the applications from the
13 candidates after our next meeting. So we'd have our next
14 meeting to decide, one, whether or not we want to follow a
15 process of every commission member being participatory in the
16 entire process or if we pick a subcommittee.

17 Likely there would still be the seven of us, so
18 likely it will be a three- person subcommittee. And all that
19 committee did the last time was to kind of delve into the
20 actual applications themselves and do kind of a preliminary
21 rating for the commission to decide, okay, do we want to
22 interview all of them or not? And so what will be hard, too,
23 is we won't know at the next meeting whether or not we have
24 twenty candidates or five or what it'll be, so that may kind
25 of change things as well. So that's why I thought maybe --

1 you know, in the next meeting we can just decide, okay, how
2 much -- what level of commitment does each member have in
3 terms of if there's a lot of applications, do -- you know, do
4 commission members want to go through them all or do we -- are
5 we fine with a subcommittee comprised of a few of us to kind
6 of go through the applications and kind of do a rating and
7 present to the commission, okay, based on the rating, our
8 recommendation from the subcommittee is out of 20, let's
9 interview five.

10 But the committee -- my understanding is the
11 committee still decide -- the commission as a whole still
12 decides on who will get interviewed, and everybody
13 participates in the entire process. So it's really just a
14 matter of, I think, each member has to decide how much of a
15 commitment at the front end each person wants to commit to.
16 And like I said, it still might be a fluid process in some
17 respects because we won't know how many candidates there will
18 be.

19 My -- my suggestion is to not have a subcommittee --
20 sorry, a special meeting prior to the next meeting, but
21 perhaps a week or two after the next meeting, have one knowing
22 kind of how many candidates we have and -- yeah, I mean,
23 that's -- that's kind of my recommendation.

24 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Yeah. So I think I've got
25 it, Chair.

1 CHAIR GINOZA: So the commissioners have to decide
2 their commitment level for the subcommittee.

3 COMMISSIONER STERLING: So the numbers are
4 important, how many, five, ten, 15, 20, how many applicants
5 are gonna come through. Then we would all decide where do the
6 ratings come from, who makes the ratings. Is that from the
7 charter of -- of the job description for the chief? Do we --

8 CHAIR GINOZA: (Inaudible.)

9 MR. MURAI: Kyle, this is Gary.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: Yeah.

11 MR. MURAI: Donna, to answer your question, yes, you
12 folks decide what the criteria will be because the charter
13 just gives you some really bare-bones qualifications, I think
14 like five years experience, three of which shall be
15 administrative. But I would -- we should probably not discuss
16 this right now and save it for the -- that meeting. But, you
17 know, my -- my two cents worth is I think Kyle's suggestion is
18 probably the most practical, which is by the next meeting we
19 will have a better idea of how many applicants you have, and
20 you can talk about -- you know, start talking about the
21 process then.

22 COMMISSIONER STERLING: I'm good with that, Chair.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. So unless anybody has any
25 other comment or recommendations, I'd like to just leave the

1 next meeting as set for May 20th at ten o'clock, and we'll add
2 the agenda items that we've discussed during this -- today's
3 meeting. And depending on how our discussions go at the next
4 meeting, we can decide whether or not we want to have a
5 special meeting between the May and the June meeting. Is
6 everybody okay with that?

7 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Sounds good, Chair.

8 CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Great.

9 COMMISSIONER STERLING: Sounds good.

10 CHAIR GINOZA: So, thank you, everybody, for your
11 service to the community and participating in the meeting, and
12 providing direction to the department. And, thank you, fire
13 department and personnel, for your time today and for
14 apprising us of what's going on in your department. So thank
15 you very much for all your input and discussion, and I'd like
16 to adjourn the fire and public safety commission meeting
17 today. It's 11:15, Thursday morning. Thank you.

18 (The proceedings were adjourned at 11:15 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF HAWAII)
) SS.
COUNTY OF MAUI)

I, Sandra J. Gran, Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of Hawaii, hereby certify that on April 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., the proceedings were taken down by me in machine shorthand and was thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my supervision; that the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter.

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

DATED this 29th day of April, 2021, in Maui, Hawaii.



Sandra J. Gran, RPR
Hawaii CSR 424