FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

COUNTY OF MAUI

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

Held via BlueJeans, commencing at 10:02 a.m., on July 15, 2021.

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

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kyle Ginoza, Chair

Lisa Vares, Vice Chair

Gregg Lundberg, Member

Dwight Burns, Member

Donna Sterling, Member

Punahele Alcon, Member

Max Kincaid, Jr., Member

Dylan Andrion, Member

STAFF:

Bradford Ventura, Deputy Fire Chief

Michael Werner, Battalion Chief

Richard Kawasaki, Assistant Fire Chief

Moana Lutey, Corporation Counsel

Gary Murai, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Richelle Wakamatsu, Commission Secretary

Herman Andaya, Maui Emergency Management Agency

(July 15, 2021, 10:02 a.m.)

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CHAIR GINOZA: Good morning, everyone. Today is July 15th, 2021, and this is the Maui Fire and Public Safety Commission meeting. My name is Kyle Ginoza, chair of the commission. Welcome, everybody. And I'd like to start -- call the meeting to order, it's just after 10:00, 10:02, and we'll start off with roll call.

Vice Chair Lisa Vares.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Here, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Welcome, Lisa.

Gregg Lundberg.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Present.

CHAIR GINOZA: I see Gregg.

Dwight Burns.

COMMISSIONER BURNS: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dwight.

Donna Sterling.

COMMISSIONER STERLING: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Donna.

Punahele Alcon.

COMMISSIONER ALCON: Here.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Punahele.

Max Kincaid, Jr. I don't see Max.

And Dylan Andrion.

COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Here, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Dylan.

We have with us from the fire department -- Chief Ventura, would you like to mention who's on the call?

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: Good morning, everybody. So I am on the call today from New Mexico, and in Maui, we have Chief Kawasaki and Chief Werner in our conference room.

CHAIR GINOZA: Great. Thank you.

And from corp. counsel we have Moana Lutey and Gary Murray.

MR. MURAI: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: We also have Herman Andaya from MEMA. Welcome, Herman.

Anybody else I neglected to recognize?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, I'd like to go over the approval of the minutes from the last two meetings, so I hope commissioners have been able to review the meeting minutes from the June 8th as well as the June 17th meetings. Could I have a motion to accept both the June 8th and the June 17th meeting minutes?

COMMISSIONER ANDRION: So moved, Chair. This is Dylan.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Dylan. Could I have a --

COMMISSIONER BURN: Second.

CHAIR GINOZA: Second, Dwight. Is there any discussion on the approval of the minutes?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, could I have a -- raise the hand of who approved the minutes, please, of commissioners?

(Response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: I think that's everybody, so approved, the minutes are approved.

Richelle, are there any individuals there to -- who have signed up to testify?

MS. WAKAMATSU: No one has signed up through our office.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you, Richelle.

Is there anybody on the call that wishes to testify? Please speak up.

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, public testimony is closed.

I'd like to move on to MEMA's report. Herman, you have the floor.

MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: (Inaudible) we've been in preparation (inaudible) there's a hurricane that's developed --

CHAIR GINOZA: You're kind of breaking up.

MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: -- in the Pacific.

Is this okay now, Mr. Chair? Can you hear me now?

CHAIR GINOZA: It's a little better.

MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Okay. So we're continuing to work on our hurricane preparedness. In fact, there is a hurricane. There is a hurricane that's just developed off the Mexican coast, it's Hurricane Felicia, and so we're continuing to monitor that. Hopefully -- it's heading (inaudible), but, hopefully, the cool moisture will lead to its demise. So we'll continue to monitor that.

We'll also continue -- we're also doing preparations for other things. As an example, we're -- we're working on our points of distribution plan, so in the event that we need to bring a large supply of food and supplies to the public, we -- we are developing plans for that. And we're working with HiEMA to do that. As well as we are working with the DOE, department of education, as well as the Maui Police Department with the active shooter plan, so we're working on that, and we hope to have an exercise sometime next year.

You have to excuse the reception and the -- the wind. I'm here at Camp Maluhia. I'm teaching a course in emergency preparedness for our scouts here. And emergency preparedness is one of their patches for eagle scout, so I'm teaching that course right now.

That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Herman.

Does any commissioner have any questions for Herman?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, thank you, Herman. Go back to your course.

MEMA OFFICER ANDAYA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Let's move on to the fire department. Chief Ventura, do you -- I'll put it to you, and I don't know if you're gonna hand it off to Chief Werner or Kawasaki since you're not in town.

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: All right. Great. Well, I do have my notes with me, so I'll share with you the fire chief's report as well as the deputy chief's report. And just like I did last month, I'll break in between so that you can ask questions if any arise.

So I just want to kind of recognize what Herman and MEMA have been doing. I've heard a ton of radio ads for them supporting, you know, preparedness this -- this year with the hurricane season. I've heard numerous radio commercials, so I just kind of wanted to give him a, you know, good job, congratulations. I've heard a lot of them, so that's good, and I hope it's reaching everybody in the public.

And then as far as our month -- our daily meetings with the mayor and the directors of the county, they've

changed to three days a week because they're kind of pulling back on COVID restrictions a little bit. So our department's also gonna be pulling back on some of our closures and restrictions that we've had in place for the last year and starting to open things back up to work with the community a little bit better.

The -- we had a meeting with the managing director in regards to the building permit process. The building permit process goes through many departments, and it can sometimes be really frustrating to the public, so we had a meeting to try to make sure whatever we can do on our end, it would expedite the process so that we aren't the ones holding up, you know, building permits that go through the process. All departments have a perspective that they want to look at a permit for. For us, it's obviously, fire code and some other things, but we've reduced the number of types of plans that we want to look at so that it doesn't get held up by us and it moves faster through the process, so we made that adjustment.

At our meeting with the mayor, our monthly meeting, we discussed basically this upcoming wildfire season and the new fiscal year budget that just kicked off.

And then Pukoo Fire Station, as I've reported a couple of times, we've been pretty active in getting that site moved, and there's a prospective site right now that we're having the county archaeologist take a look at the site just

to make sure there's no red flags or no -- you know, no turn back moments there because we want to make sure that we don't purchase something or go through with an acquisition without getting the right people to take a look at the land.

We did a presentation last week for county council in regards to our improved helicopter program, and it was taken very well. They had a bunch of questions for us, and we were able to answer them all, and we kind of for now informed them of the change and the future of our program, so that was a good meeting.

And then we did also on June 23rd have a meeting, an evening meeting with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiaries. That was a great meeting to hear those folks' perspective on the Pukoo Fire Station location. We are asking for an easement of Hawaiian Home Lands for access to the Pukoo Fire Station, and so I really, really appreciated hearing all of their comments and trying to try to work together. If there's anything that they can suggest to make -- make it better for the Hawaiian Home Lands properties that are adjacent to our property, then, you know, it's something that we can definitely work with them. They had some great suggestions in regards to fencing and space and which way to access the property and not. So a lot of very passionate people, I love meeting and talking with that group and listening to what they have to say.

Before I move on to the deputy report, I just want to give a moment for questions if there's any.

CHAIR GINOZA: Any questions from commissioners?

VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi, good morning. I had a question about the -- the increase in funding for the aircraft budget. I remember when Don Shearer came and gave a presentation, and one of the things that he was considering for future contract years was the addition of twin-engine helicopters. Did that ever end up coming to fruition?

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah, good -- good question. So what we have is we have a five-year contract that just started July 1st with Windward Aviation. That spec that we created went out to public bid, and he won the bid. What it is is year one, which is the fiscal year that started two weeks ago. It'll be the same aircraft as the one we have now, a Hughes 500 with a single-engine aircraft. Starting next July 1, we're gonna be getting the twin-engine aircraft. It's a BK-117. It has a ton of more capabilities that we can go over, including hoisting, carrying more payload, moving more manpower, and, additionally, it'll have -- it'll bring 300 gallons to the fire per drop rather than 90 to 100, which is what we're doing right now.

And, of course, that -- none of that comes without

cost, that's why I wanted to meet with the council well in advance to inform them of the increase that'll be coming to our budget with the increase of the aircraft starting next year. And the reason we had to kind of start now is the aircraft needs to be purchased, the pilots need to be trained, and our crew, our firefighters need to be trained before next July, so we wanted to get the ball rolling soon.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Cool. Thank you so much. All right, thanks.

CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: I have a question, Chief. On the meeting with the beneficiaries, how -- what was the -- were they generally supportive or a lot of opposition as well?

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: We did have both, as expected. I would say of the people that provided oral testimony that evening, it was probably more like 80 percent in support, 20 percent against. And understandably, and it's fair. And I'm sure more people are gonna also provide written testimony. The period for written testimony is still open for this particular case, and then once that closes, then Hawaiian Home Lands will kind of make a conclusion on that. They have a meeting scheduled for next month, August, so hopefully, we can get in on that as well.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

Any other questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, please continue to the deputy chief's report.

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: Okay. So the -- what I wanted to include in this month's report was the quarterly newsletter from our training bureau. Did everybody get a chance to receive that? I tried to send it out.

COMMISSIONERS: (Gesturing.)

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: Okay, cool. So I wanted to share this with you folks 'cause what it really covers is the last three months of training, what classes we have given, and -- and we give you the guys the -- the training which is -- comes on a spreadsheet which doesn't really explain what we're doing out there. So I wanted to include the newsletter so you can take a look through that, see what types of training are going on. And then not only is it organized training under the training bureau, but you'll see training, specific cruiser training, and that's captain-lead training, that's training that captains said, hey, let's work on this discipline or that discipline. They go find a building, they talk to a landlord or a manager, and then they use a facility in their district to do training. So I thought, you know, it gives you an idea of what's happening on a daily basis out

there in the department. So take a look at that if you have any questions.

Moving on to my written report here. The firefighter trainees have begun, and ocean safety had their agility three days ago for us to start that next recruit class for our ocean safety officers. The peer and wellness committee, as you'll both see from the quarterly training newsletter and on here, has started to go around and do their training. And then we've also had the department psychologist video out for people to reach out and talk to her. I haven't had a chance yet to inquire with her how many people have called her directly, but I do plan to do that because I want to get a feel for what the demand is gonna be for her. The wellness app, which is also part of our department wellness program, all of the members are starting to -- some of the members are starting to download the wellness app, so that's -- that's good. It'll give them an opportunity to get help if they need any help.

Our union interactions, the negotiations, we have all of our bargaining units are open for negotiations, and June 30th, they were supposed to close. HGEA, we closed three of the negotiations with them, their bargaining units, and then HFFA is still in arbitration. There's no date set for the closure of that arbitration, but we're operating under the guise of the current and expired contract.

Transmittals from the public. We received, you know, just a variety of, you know, just thank you for everything that's been going on. You know, thank you for first responders during this time, they appreciate everybody being out there, and so that's been nice.

And then we had a -- you know, we have a -- we have a lot of very talented people in our department. It's awesome to see stuff like this happen. Ikaika Blackburn, who's a firefighter 3 in Wailuku, he plays music, he has a -- and he played for four different halaus during the Merrie Monarch, and so that was pretty cool for him to be, you know, out, involved. That's an amazing event. Unfortunately, last year it was shut down due to COVID, and this year they did a virtual event, but happy to see that it started up again and happy to see that some of our guys were involved in that.

That concludes that report for you.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you. Any questions from commissioners on that report?

VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

VICE CHAIR VARES: (Inaudible.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa, you're --

VICE CHAIR VARES: All right. Sorry about that.

I've got a quick question. If I could just ask a real quick clarification and not too much go into it. But for

the HGEA union stuff, could you real quickly explain who is Unit 3 and who is 13 and then 14 and 15? Like is ocean safety 15 and clerical is 3? What is all of that?

ACTING CHIEF VENTURA: Yeah. Good question. So Unit 3 and 13 are our clerical staff, and they're in two separate bargaining units, so good guess. Unit 14 is the lifeguards. The lifeguards are currently Unit 14 with the sheriff's department, which makes it a little awkward, so they're breaking away and gonna become Unit 15 by themselves. So, yeah, 14-15 is kind of the hybrid of ocean safety right now.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Great. Okay. Thank you. That was easy. Thanks.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Thank you.

Any other questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, Chief Kawasaki.

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Good morning, everybody. So since our slave-driver boss is gone, Mike and I don't have anything.

(Laughter.)

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Just joking. Yeah, we've been still working. We've been coming to work every day. Brad's not here, but --

And as far as our major incidents, we were pretty surprised that we've been very hot and dry and no major fires, you know, a lot of -- a bunch of small brush fires and stuff. And 4th of July, we got through that with -- we did have a bunch of callback crews and nothing very significant. We had -- they were busy, but nothing -- nothing really big.

Moving on to our apparatus equipment, Engine 1 has arrived. It got here last week. We did training with the crew, all the three crews on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We did have a blessing for the -- that truck yesterday. And we're -- have some radio work that needs to be programmed, that'll happen tomorrow, and after that happens, we can put it in service. It should be in service, that Engine 1 for the Wailuku Station, that should be tomorrow. We did order a mini truck for them that is scheduled to arrive here on Maui on the 21st of July, and then the Lahaina truck should be here on August 4th.

And like Chief Brad said, we did -- we have our Recruit Class 37 right now. They started July 1st. They're upstairs doing their EMR/CPR certifications.

Ocean safety, we did an agility test on Monday. We interviewed all day on Tuesday. We had 11 -- sorry, 11 applicants for seven positions. I'm kind of glad to say that of the 11 applicants, they're all good applicants, so we're not gonna be too -- you know, we have -- we have a good

selection for, you know, that seven positions that we have to fill. I'm happy with that.

And also, we do have that -- in the beginning of COVID, the Makena lifeguards were taken away, the funding for that. So we are in the process of trying to get them reinstated because the state has funded them again, and we're just working on trying to get them back in place. We will be probably having to hire another class for ocean safety eventually, you know, shortly -- probably within the next few months.

Other than that, that's all I have.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Kawasaki.

Any questions from commissioners?

VICE CHAIR VARES: (Gesturing.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Lisa.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Hi. I'm sorry I have so many questions this week. You guys have a lot of interesting stuff going on. Hey, regarding the apparatuses, Engine 1's got a new truck, and Engine 3 has got one coming. Are they -- are crews cross-trained on those apparatuses so that if there's a -- a long incident, another crew can come in and take over and effectively use that apparatus?

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah. So most of our trucks are similar. You know, the functions of the truck, the pump and stuff is pretty standard, so anybody can, you know,

jump on the truck and they should -- you know, they'll do a quick, you know, check on it, but they're able to all operate the different -- the different trucks. When it comes to the tankers and the ladders, though, they're -- those are different from our pumper trucks, so there's -- not everybody's familiar. You know, if they are on the ladder truck, then maybe only certain people can drive that one.

And as far as the equipment that we carry, we do have a standardized everything on each of the trucks, so everybody should be familiar. Lots of times -- we try and keep the trucks, you know, the same equipment and in the same compartments, but sometimes there's a little variation, so when the guys, you know, jump on a different truck, they need to familiarize themselves with the truck.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Gotcha. The pumpers and ladders, though, are kind of specifically different and might not be as familiar to a second crew coming in?

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, yeah. So --

VICE CHAIR VARES: Does that happen often?

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: What's that?

VICE CHAIR VARES: Does that happen often? Is that something that can happen frequently?

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, so -- so, no, we'll try and make sure that, you know, if we have a -- if you're talking about our callback crews when the callback crews come

in, we won't put somebody that has no experience on a ladder, you know. Almost everybody has experience on the pumpers.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Gotcha.

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: It's just the ladders are, you know, kind of specialized.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Gotcha. All right, thanks.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Mr. Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

Yes, Gregg, go ahead.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Chief, what is gonna happen to the vehicles that are being replaced? Are they gonna be sold off, or are you gonna rehab them? What's the plan for the replaced vehicles with these new ones?

ASSISTANT CHIEF KAWASAKI: Yeah, so our normal replacement schedule for our trucks is they go from a frontline truck and then at some point, you know, depends on their condition, we pick the -- the ones that need to replace first, so once they -- once we replace them, they become our -- our newest relief apparatus. So they've still got some life left. We normally try -- from there, it will be our relief truck. We'll keep them as long as we can, and then after that, it reaches a point where it's, you know, not effective, cost-effective to keep around, so then we'll dispose of it after. So like this Engine 1 truck, it'll be our -- one of our better relief trucks, and it'll probably --

you know, it'll be around for seven -- I don't know, six, seven more years, probably. And then once it reaches a point where, you know, there -- like we do have a truck, our old relief Engine 7 from Hana truck is at our training center. It's no longer able to pump -- able to pump, but we can use it to drive, so we use it for driver training. It's just that the pump is not reliable enough to put online. So that's how all of our vehicles go. They go from a frontline to a relief apparatus and then disposal after that.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Thank you.

CHAIR GINOZA: Any other questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, Chief Werner.

CHIEF WERNER: Good morning, Commissioners. For the bureau update, starting with the fire prevention bureau, along the guidance from the mayor and what deputy chief was talking about, they put a very strong effort into plans review last month. And we've had a couple of guys who are qualified to do those plans reviews, even coming in on the weekends to try to get us caught up with those. Again, they're putting a very strong effort into the MAPPS program that is scheduled to go live mid-October, and there's still a lot of work to be done, so they've put a very strong effort into that.

And then one of the nice things was with COVID starting to lighten up just a little bit; we were able to do some pub ed stuff in person. And one of the things they did was they attended a CSI camp that is put on by the Maui Police Department, and it's a really cool camp. They all do all types of investigations, fingerprinting, they even do an autopsy, and one part of that is investigating arson fires. So the guys put together a mock room, it was about 3 by 3, it had carpet, it had drywall, it had a ceiling, and they lit a fire inside of it. This was outside of the camp, and the kids were out there watching this thing catch fire, and then they put it. And then they also hid some clues around in the yard, you know, possible things that caused that fire. And I had a chance to attend it and see, you know, how well this prevention bureau did putting that together and the reaction of all the kids, and it was a really cool thing.

Also, prevention -- so when there's an activation from MEMA for the emergency operations center, somebody from our department has to attend to be a part of the public safety branch, and the captain of the fire prevention bureau is one of those people. So Herman put together a really good program this year of an EOC refresher just to align us all to make sure we're all on the same page as to what's expected. So the captain of that bureau attended that as well as all of the other people who were expected to respond to the EOC whenever

they do their -- whenever they stand up that for emergencies.

Moving on to the health and safety bureau, they completed a draft of a respiratory protection program manual that they are submitting to admin. for us to review. And then they put another strong effort into HIOSH requirements; that's one of the things that's been ongoing for a long time with them. As you can imagine, you know, the fines from any of those things that are not taken care of can be really high, and HIOSH did a nice visit last month throughout the county. I don't think they did any of our facilities, but, again, they're still putting a strong effort into making sure that we're up to par with all of that.

Our warehouse technician has been very proactive getting ready for wildfire season this year. One of the things that happens out there is when you have the large fires that are happening all across the United States, a lot of the supplies dries up. PPE, the wild gear that the guys wear, fire hose, all of that type of stuff we learned last year became very hard to acquire. I had heard that LA gave one of the companies a $5 million check and just said any time that you develop hose, we want it all. So Dexter was very proactive this year, and he ordered a lot of supplies, so I think it -- if we get a heavy fire season this summer, we're gonna be prepared for that.

Our medical director, again, he's very proactive.

He has just ordered -- I'm trying to say it correctly, it's naloxone. And what that is, is it's a nasal treatment that reverses the negative or the dangerous effects of opiates. And as you guys know, a large volume of our calls are medicals, and, unfortunately, we do come across a lot of patients who are ODing from drug use. So he's getting with our medical EMS cadre leader and going over a training program and then developing an SOG, and as soon as possible, we're gonna get that out to the guys online, learning how to use that and then putting it online.

What a lot of people don't understand is that an N95 mask is actually a respirator, so our SCBA tech just received a new testing/fitting machine, so now all of our guys -- we've had one in the past, but this one is the latest and greatest, and so we can get all of our guys fitted for N95 masks as well as the SCBA masks that we wear when we go into the fires. That's it for that bureau.

Our budget planning and appropriations committee update, so FY '21 closed, all procurements were completed. The last of it were the extractors for Paia, Napili, and Kula, and those are being installed as we speak. When we submit our budget, we also have to submit goals which we call performance measures, and we report on those every quarter. We have over 50 of them. And so our -- the fourth quarter ended, and we're submitting those to the budget office tomorrow, so that's all

taken care of. And then, as chief mentioned, the FY '22 budget opened on July 1st, and we're already actively working on all of the procurement and all of the goals for the FY '22 budget.

And that's everything I have. If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you, Chief Werner.

Any questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. I have a question. Could you give a little bit of background on the MAPPS program and what the purposes are?

CHIEF WERNER: I'll give you the best that I can. So MAPPS is the county permitting -- it's an automated permitting process, and it involves all of the departments in the County of Maui that have to deal with processing and approving permits. So it used to be Kiva, and Kiva is now a dinosaur, so they purchased MAPPS. But MAPPS was purchased as an off-the-shelf type of a thing, and then we'll build it with you. So we have -- I can't remember the number of permits, I want to say it's over 25, so each one of those permits has to be created to fit into this MAPPS program, and then it has to be tested as if I'm a MAPPS user and trying to use this permit and all of the interaction that goes with that. So just the development of all of the actual permits themselves and then

learning how to use this program, it's been a huge challenge. And not just for our department, for all of the departments in the county. So we got a new lieutenant last year, and, luckily, he is just super computer savvy, and Captain Otsubo has directed him to just take this on. And so he has been getting us caught up, and, actually, we're doing really well towards meeting the goal of being ready to go for October.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Any questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. Seeing none, let's move on to our new business, which is -- we have one item, which is an update from the temporary investigative group. And I believe Vice Chair Vares will provide an update.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Yes. Hi, everybody. So the TIG or the temporary investigative group hasn't done too much between the last meeting and this one as a result of needing to reopen the candidacy just to make sure that we cross all the t's and dot all of the i's, and did not research too far into the candidates that we had to -- to be fair to any other new candidates that were coming through. The application deadline is July 22nd, so after the 22nd we will start the research process again. Once we get that out of the way, and I would hope that that would only take a week or two, we will be scheduling interviews with the candidates, and at the

interview, we're going to be asking a specific list of questions. That list of questions hasn't been developed yet. We're still working on that.

I'm actually going to ask all of our commissioners to please pull together some questions that you would like to find out for each candidate, and we'll -- we'll go through those lists together and find out what works and what doesn't. But, please, if everybody could come together provide us with three or four questions that you think would be appropriate for the chief's interview, that would be really appreciated.

When we do have the interviews, we're going to be using scoring sheets or rating sheets so that it kind of coordinates and documents how each answer is received. And then, once the interviews are done, I would think that deliberations wouldn't take very long at all, and we'll then make our choice based on that. I would realistically expect there still to be some time between interview and any kind of announcement because we do need to follow Sunshine laws regarding when we can vote and when we can deliberate.

But we'll definitely keep you all posted as that becomes clearer. Did anybody have any questions on how we're doing with the -- this process so far? Anybody?

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Lisa.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Gregg. Yeah.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Thank you for all your work

on this. It's really appreciated. Honolulu is going through, I believe, the same process at the same time.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: I believe they're looking to fill their chief. Have there been any learnings, or have you talked to anybody over there to get ideas on what would make us better here?

VICE CHAIR VARES: They're doing something that's a little -- a little more -- I wouldn't say -- anyway, the process that they're using, I believe they're going to keep quite a few of their questioning and interview process public as opposed to any private interviewing and whatnot. I've only heard that; I want to verify that. If that is the case, you better believe we're going to be watching that and see both interview styles and interview questions and what works and what doesn't and, oh, stay away from that question and, oh, I hadn't thought of that. So, yeah, we are paying very close attention to what they're doing in Honolulu.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR GINOZA: That's excellent.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Anybody else?

CHAIR GINOZA: Actually, we should try to reach out, either yourself or I could as well --

VICE CHAIR VARES: Sure, happy to.

CHAIR GINOZA: -- to see what kind of insight we

could gather from Oahu.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Okay. Yeah, we'll get that on Kyle, definitely.

Okay. I also wanted to mention, by the way, the -- all of the information for the candidates, including resumes and letters of support, are located at the corp. counsel's office. You can easily contact Gary, Fellow Commissioners, to request to visit and take your time and read all over that stuff. It is not specifically just for the TIG members; it's for all of us. The TIG is just here to kind of be our -- like the library. We're gonna -- we're the librarians of all of this. We're just holding on to it for everybody and kind of categorizing it and putting it in the right order, but you all are all the readers as well. So at any time, if you do have time to come down to corp. counsel and read over everything. I definitely encourage that, especially after July 22nd, because if we get more candidates, then there will be more information added to that pile. But definitely, again, I encourage everyone to take the time to read over that stuff if you'd like to. Of course, all of that information will be presented in a meeting prior to interview time, but it'd be great if you guys were able to do a little homework ahead of time.

MR. MURAI: Call first to let me know you're coming, though.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Oh, yeah. Sorry, Gary. We fully just stormed Gary's office yesterday. I did not give him a heads-up.

MR. MURAI: You're welcome, Commissioners, you're welcome to come, just let me know so I can make sure to have a room I can put you in with the file.

VICE CHAIR VARES: The closet, the closet was great yesterday. We appreciate the closet; it was perfect. It was togetherness.

MR. MURAI: Oh, no, that's -- that's a last resort.

VICE CHAIR VARES: I deserved that. Thank you, Gary.

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Any other questions from commissioners?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: So I'd like to kind of clarify to just make sure I understand the process and, you know, for the members of the public. So kind of my understanding, and you guys can correct me if I'm wrong, of the process is -- so July 22nd is the deadline for applicants for fire chief. The TIG will review applications and come up with the scoring sheets and the interview questions or whatever, and basically provide a recommendation to this body in a regular public meeting. So sometime after July 22nd, we will schedule a regular meeting to hear the recommendations of the TIG, and

then another public meeting after that to accept any recommendations from the TIG, and then after that, have a meeting or meetings in executive session to have the interviews with the candidates, and then a public meeting after that to kind of discuss, I guess, or is it -- yeah, I guess maybe, Gary, could you provide some insight on that?

MR. MURAI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, Mr. Chair, yes, actually, what you described is kind of what the -- you know, I've been sitting in with the TIG in their meetings, and it all depends -- a lot of what happens depends on how many applicants we get. You know, originally, if you may recall, when the TIG was being formed, part of the TIG's responsibility was to take -- you know, let's say for the sake of discussion, we had 12 applicants. The TIG was going to review the applications and maybe narrow it down to, say, the top four or five for the full commission to vet and to interview. Now, it's been already, you know, disclosed at a prior meeting that up until the time -- initially, there were only two applications that were received, but concurrently, we also discovered some errors in the posting, so we had to repost. And now the deadline for applications is not closed yet, so I don't want to speculate too much on what the TIG may do, but it appears that, you know, there -- the TIG may not have 10, 12, or 15 applications to review. And if -- if the numbers are manageable, the TIG may decide to just allow the

entire commission -- or the TIG may review for qualifications, in other words, there may be an applicant who is just not qualified, you know, they don't meet the MQs, and those may be eliminated early in the process. But if -- if there aren't like 20 people they need to narrow down, then the TIG may decide to just let the entire commission review all of the candidates as long as they are -- you know, they meet the MQs.

Anyway, Lisa, I hope -- Lisa, Dwight, and Donna, I hope I described it accurately. I know, you know, you folks talked about that yesterday.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Yeah, that's actually an excellent description, Gary. And I definitely wanted to clarify that the TIG isn't going to be making any recommendations, especially because there's only -- there's so few candidates, we don't have anything to recommend. We're -- at this point, we've gone from almost like a -- almost like a, you know, a gatekeeper of the -- who actually makes it to the final round to we're not gonna have to do that at this point, and we're just more at this point acting as -- as compilers of and organizers of the information as it comes. And also, so that we don't have eight or nine commissioners emailing the personnel offices for records or for, you know, history, work history, or whatnot, we'll do that. We'll -- we'll organize those requests, and then once we get those requests, that information, those documents will be then organized in the

files at corp. counsel instead of being spread out amongst all eight or nine of us.

So there's not gonna be -- the TIG doesn't have any power to recommend. If it did, I don't know that we're gonna be exercising that. We're just going to be organizing the information and making sure that everybody's got everything that they could possibly ask so that when it's time for us to meet as a full commission, we're efficient, and we have all that information right there ready to go. Because we don't want to have to keep Sunshine lawing and another meeting and another meeting and another meeting, I'd like to get everything together ahead of time.

Does that answer that question?

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, thank you. I just wanted to make sure that commissioners and the public were informed about our next steps.

VICE CHAIR VARES: Thank you, Kyle.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you very much. That's excellent.

So any -- any other questions about the TIG update or -- or the process that we're following?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: Okay. Seeing none, I look forward to the next meeting with the TIG results once we get the applications in.

Does any commissioner have any -- anything else that -- we're at the end of our agenda, so any clarification or anything on agenda items that we've already discussed?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: None.

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Gregg.

COMMISSIONER LUNDBERG: No, I said none, thank you.

CHAIR GINOZA: Oh, thanks.

Okay. Well, thank you --

COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Chair, I have a question.

CHAIR GINOZA: Yes, Dylan.

COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Are we able to hear how many current applicants there are?

CHAIR GINOZA: I don't know if there are any, but I -- it's -- until it's closed, I would say no.

COMMISSIONER ANDRION: Okay. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR GINOZA: Thank you.

Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIR GINOZA: All right. So we'll keep everyone informed of the process as we outlined earlier, but thank you, everybody, for your time, and I hope you have a great day. It's 10:49 a.m., and I'd like to adjourn the July 15th meeting of the fire and public safety commission.

(The proceedings were adjourned at 10:49 a.m.)

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 July 15, 2021, at 10:02 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 28th day of July, 2021, in Maui, Hawaii.

Sandra J. Gran, RPR
Hawaii CSR 424