

COUNTY OF KAUAI

Minutes of Meeting OPEN SESSION

Board/Commission:		Kaua'i Fire Commission	Meeting Date:	December 19, 2023
Location	Līhu'e Civic Center, Moikeha Building Meeting Room 2A/2B. 4444 Rice Street, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766		Start of Meeting: 2:01 p.m.	End of Meeting: 3:10 p.m.
Present	Chair Jen Chahanovich; Vice Chair Rodney Yama; Commissioners: Alfredo Garces, Trevor Ford, and Gary Pacheco. Also present: Boards & Commissions Office Staff: Support Clerk Lisa Oyama; Administrator Ellen Ching; Office of the County Attorney: Deputy County Attorney Jenna Tatsey. Kaua'i Fire Department: Fire Chief Michael Gibson, and Chief's Secretary Soncy Tamashiro.			
Excused	Commissioner Linda Kaauwai-Iwamoto, Commissioner Alfred Levinthol			
Absent				

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call to ascertain quorum	Chair Chahanovich called the Fire Commission December 19, 2023, meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. A roll call ensued that quorum was established, five (5) Commissioners were present to conduct business.	Quorum was established with five (5) Commissioners present.
Approval of Agenda	Chair Chahanovich called for a motion to approve the agenda as circulated.	Commissioner Pacheco moved to approve the December 19, 2023, agenda. Commissioner Garces seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
Election of Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2024	Commissioner Garces nominated Rodney Yama as Chair. Rodney Yama accepted. Chair Chahanovich seconded the nomination. Commissioner Garces nominated Gary Pacheco as Vice Chair. Gary Pacheco accepted. Chair Chahanovich seconded the nomination.	Commissioner Garces moved to approve the elected nominees. Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Motion carried 5:0.
Chair's Announcements	Next Regular Monthly Meeting will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at the: Boards and Commissions Conference Room, Pi'ikoi Building 4444 Rice Street, Suite 300, Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766	
Public Testimony	Chair Chahanovich called for public testimony. Being there was no written testimony, or	

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	members of the public present at the meeting. Boards & Commissions Administrator Ellen Ching stated for the record that it would be necessary for Chair Chahanovich to call for public testimony on each agenda item.	
Approval of Minutes	Chair Chahanovich called for a motion to amend or approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023, meeting.	Commissioner Pacheco moved to approve the November 21, 2023; meeting minutes as circulated. Commissioner Ford seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved. 5:0.
First Responder Recognition	<p>Chief Michael Gibson gave a short speech recognizing First Responders for an ocean rescue involving multiple swimmers at Kealia Beach River mouth on July 9, 2023. Multiple resources from Ocean Safety, American Medical Response, and the Kaua'i Fire Department responded.</p> <p>AMR/MEDIC Medic 21 – Dwight Fujimoto & Giorgio Dieguez Medic 23 – Stacey Oho & Kayana Yamaguchi Medic 25 – Jon Kusano & Gavin Bryan</p> <p>Kaiākea Blue Fire Captain Joseph Durocher Fire Fighter III Kevin Cook Fire Fighter II Micah Contrades Fire Fighter II Abraham Mohr</p> <p>Ocean Safety OSO LT Anthony Jaquias OSO Aric Acorda OSO Eugene Ancheta</p>	

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	<p>OSO Kawika Kauai</p> <p>Chair Chahanovich expressed her gratitude towards the First Responders. Vice Chair Yama congratulated the responders on their recognition and thanked them for their service to the County of Kaua'i. Commissioner Garces stated his gratitude towards the First Responders. Commissioner Ford thanked the First Responders. Commissioner Pacheco commended the First Responders for doing a fabulous job.</p> <p>Councilmember Cowden gave her thanks on behalf of herself and the County Council.</p>	
<p>Chief's Monthly Bureau Reports and Updates for November 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Update on Kaua'i Fire and Ocean Safety, including updates on Partnerships, Resources Highlights, and Wildfire/Council b) Administrative Bureau Update, including updates on the budget, staffing, overtime report, facilities, and fleet c) Fire Operations Bureau Update, including statistics on calls for service and brief description of some of the incidents responded to d) Fire Prevention Bureau Update, including monthly statistics e) Fire Training Bureau Update, including monthly statistics f) Ocean Safety Bureau Update, including monthly statistics and bureau highlights g) Update on Fire Chief Gibson's progress regarding the Goals and Objectives for FY 2023-2024 <p><u>Fire and Ocean Safety</u></p> <p>Fire Chief Gibson stated that the testing for Fire Fighter 2 and Fire Fighter 3 are complete. The captains' interviews were completed last month, and they are awaiting for HR to calculate the final scores. Captain Van Warren retired as of December 1, 2023. The Department was involved with the community with the Lights on Rice Parade, the Waimea Parade, and the COK Holly Jolly Event.</p>	

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	<p><u>Partnerships</u></p> <p>Battalion Chief Pablo working a lot with KEMA and KPD. Partnered with KEMA on a Homeland Security Grant, in total grant was for \$780,000, approved and accepted by Council on 12/6. Monies are to be split between KEMA, KPD, and Fire for certain projects. Fire will use their portion, about \$78,000, which will buy a second set of Fire Fighter turnouts for the Fire Fighters, which has been a goal for several years.</p> <p>Deputy Chief Mills, the County Attorney's Office, and their Managing Director have been finalizing the lease agreement for the new site landing pad for KPD's helicopter within Lihu'e Airport.</p> <p><u>Resource Updates</u></p> <p>Pilot and maintenance contract with Airbourne Aviation, new contract has increased \$195,000 a year, previous contract was \$564,000, now it's up \$852,000 annually.</p> <p>Air1's engine and turbine overhaul is complete. Conducting test trials and will be returned if it passes tests.</p> <p><u>Ocean Safety Bureau</u></p> <p>OSB Chief Kalani Vierra gave a report on Ocean Safety Bureau. Ongoing recruitment for Ocean Safety Officer 1 position, administration gave 12 new funded positions, those positions will help to extend hours from 8 hours to 10 hours a day. Three full-time positions have been filled; they are in training. Once all positions are filled, the goal is to move to a 4/10-hour schedule, hopefully by March or April, depending on the recruitment. Statewide Hawaiian Lifeguard Association Quarterly Meeting was held on Kaua'i. Representatives from each island were in attendance. Lifeguard Recruiting Clinics haven't been a success, so they're taking the clinics to different parts of the island to educate people on what they do, the pay, and the process. There was a nice turnout in Hanalei, nine people showed up, three people signed up on the spot. The hardship is getting people to sign up, getting them trained and out on the beaches. Goal is to have all positions filled by the end of February. Updated video at the baggage claims at the airport will be starting soon, working with</p>	

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	<p>Ho'ike TV. Options for a Lifeguard Stewardship Program will be discussed with Kaua'i High School principal, since they have a swimming pool. Kaua'i High School is looking at different ideas to utilize the swimming pool because interest in competitive swimming has gone down since Covid, if there is no interest, they might discontinue the pool. In the process of purchasing a new tower for Wanini Operations. Lifeguards there are working out of their truck.</p> <p>Commissioner Pacheco inquired about ocean safety warning signs for Kalihiwai, mainly for the visitors who frequently swim near the river mouth.</p> <p>OSB Chief Vierra stated that it's possible to put up signs. They have signs up at Queens Bath, Lumahai river mouth, Kalapaki, Po'ipū, and are working with Kaua'i Lifeguard Association to have one put in at the very end of the Wanini back channel. The sign is usually located right next to the rescue tube location. He will bring it up in the next Kaua'i Lifeguard Association meeting.</p> <p><u>Administrative Bureau</u></p> <p>One of the items Chief Gibson will be asking for in his budget is a Data and Analytics Software that will assist in creating data sheets. Ocean Safety has it and the Chief would like to have it for Fire.</p> <p>Overall, in the Department, 3 vacancies, Fire Fighter training level, due to retirements. 2 Fire Fighters on long term leave, one was an on-duty injury, another was a personal illness, 1 military leave. 3 on various shoulder injuries.</p>	<p>Commissioner Ford moved to accept the Chief's Monthly report. Commissioner Garces seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, motion passes. 5:0.</p>
Executive Session	None.	

SUBJECT	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Adjournment	Chair Chahanovich called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.	Commissioner Pacheco moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ford seconded. Hearing no objections, meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Lisa Oyama
Lisa Oyama, Commission Support Clerk

Reviewed and Approved by: _____
Jen Chahanovich, Chair

(X) Approved as circulated (January 16, 2024 meeting).

() Approved with amendments.