

DATE: May 27, 1975

PLACE: Cameron Center, Conference Room, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

CALL TO ORDER: 4:10 p.m.

PRESIDING: Monsignor Kekumano, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Monsignor Kekumano, Chairman  
Joseph Souki  
Hideo Abe  
Allan Sparks  
Margaret Cameron  
Catalino Agliam  
Lloyd Sodetani  
Edwina Bright  
Stephen Petro  
Paul Mancini, Attorney

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ralph Murakami

OTHERS PRESENT: Wayne Uemae, Planning Director  
Shigeto "Mustard" Murayama  
David Slocum

MINUTES:

The minutes having been distributed, the Chairman asked if there were any corrections, there being no questions, by motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of May 19, 1975 were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

County Government: Mr. Souki indicated that the Committee on County Government had intended to meet with the Board of Appeals on Thursday, May 22, 1975 but due to conflicting schedules, the meeting did not materialize. Mr. Mancini stated that the Board of Appeals meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, May 29, 1975 for a luncheon meeting. All Commissioners were invited and urged to attend. Mr. Mancini also related that Mr. Matsui, Chairman of the Planning Commission, and Mr. Young Whee Chun, Chairman of the Board of Adjustment and Appeals, would meet with the County Government committee at 4:00 p.m. on May 29, 1975 at the Charter Commission office.

Electoral Systems:

Mr. Sparks informed the Commission that the committee on electoral systems would be meeting that evening, May 27, 1975 at 7:30 p.m. at the Commission office. Mr. Allan Barr would be speaking to the committee on District Representation.

Materials Distributed:

The following reports were distributed to the members of the Commission:

1. Reports from the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch.
2. Findings and Recommendations of the 1966 Maui County Charter Commission.
3. Overview of the Philosophies of Government.
4. Burns v. Hawaii 384 US 73

Mr. Mancini gave a brief explanation of the materials that were distributed.

Speaker, Wayne Uemae, Director, Department of Public Works

Monsignor Kekumano introduced Mr. Wayne Uemae, Director of Public Works.

Wayne Uemae, Director of Public Works

Mr. Uemae distributed two tables of organization to the Commission. One table identified the present organizational structure for the Department of Public Works and the second table of organization reflected proposed changes recommended by Mr. Uemae's Department.

Proposed Table of Organization: Water and Parks

Mr. Uemae explained that the proposed organizational structure had a number of significant changes for his department. He indicated that the plan had two major departmental additions; those being the Department of Water Supply and the maintenance functions of the Department of Parks and Recreation. These functions are not currently under the department of Public Works but there exists many reasons for consideration to place them under Public Works. He explained the efficiencies that would result in these mergers, emphasizing the utilization of manpower and equipment. Mr. Uemae stated that coordination between these departments is a necessity and it is, of course, more readily effectuated when occurring as divisions.

In commenting on the transfer of the Water department, Mr. Uemae stated that the financial aspects of the Water department would be transferred to the Finance Department under his proposal.

Mr. Uemae clarified the current table of organization; he stated that the Highways Division is currently administered in districts. The current districts include Hana, Lanai, Molokai, Makawao, Lahaina, and Wailuku. He stated that his engineering staff serves as an engineering arm for the County. They perform in house project design, perform construction inspection and develop standards and specifications for County projects as well as those proposed by developers.

Land Use and Codes Division:

In referring to his chart, Mr. Uemae stated that in July of 1974 the Building Division of the Department of Public Works was integrated with a new Land Use and Codes Division. This was to be a one stop shopping center for developers. He explained that this new division then started to administer the Subdivision and Housing Code ordinance previously under the Planning Department. Mr. Uemae commented that certain amendments to the Charter appeared necessary to reflect this change.

Sewer Division:

Mr. Uemae explained that there was no current ordinance for the administration of the Sewer Division but related that such an ordinance is now being drafted by a consulting firm.

Questions from the Commission:

Ms. Cameron asked Mr. Uemae his opinion with regard to the attempted transfer in Honolulu of the Sewer Division of Public Works to the Department of Water Supply? Mr. Uemae responded that the move was contemplated in an attempt to get better utilization of manpower and equipment. He explained that the same need does exist for Maui.

Mr. Petro questioned the role of the Water Board in Mr. Uemae's structure.

Mr. Uemae indicated that there would be no need for the Board of Water Supply under his recommendations--the Council would set water rates.

Mr. Souki expressed his opinion that the engineering staff under the proposed table of organization would provide line services as well as staff services.

Questions from the Commission

Mr. Cameron asked whether the proposed structure would be more efficient than the existing structure?

Mr. Uemae's response indicated that in concept, total efficiency should improve.

In response to a question by Mr. Petro on bond issuance, Mr. Uemae stated that under proposed organization the Department of Finance would administer bond issuances for the Water Department.

Mr. Souki questioned the necessity of a personnel division with the Department of Public Works?

Mr. Uemae indicated that because of the large staff within the department, it was necessary to maintain a separate personnel division. He related that currently the Department of Public Works has approximately 240 employees while the Department of Water Supply has nearly 60 employees.

Mr. Mancini asked that if it was correct to assume that Mr. Uemae's requests with regard to Charter amendments are basically three:

1. To amend the Charter to reflect the changes occurring in transferring the Subdivision and Housing ordinance responsibilities from the Planning Department to Public Works.
2. To transfer the Water department functions to the Department of Public Works.
3. To transfer the maintenance responsibilities of the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Uemae stated that this was essentially correct except that the financial responsibilities of the Department of Water Supply would be transferred to the Department of Finance. Mr. Mancini asked whether a cost/benefit analysis could be performed with regard to the proposal. Mr. Uemae stated; this could be performed.

Mr. Sparks asked if Mr. Uemae felt there would be political problems with the plan? Mr. Uemae stated that the proposal was drafted with the aim of achieving the highest degree of efficiency and without concern to political issues.

Mr. Sparks asked who participated in drafting the plan?

Mr. Uemae identified Mr. Franco, Mr. Claro Capili, and himself.

Mr. Souki reflected upon the fear that the Council may be reluctant to raise water rates and commented on the value of an independent Board to deal with politically sensitive issues.

Mr. Uemae stated that under the upcoming sewer ordinance the Council would have to set monthly rates for sewer utilization.

Mr. Sparks questions the Water departments self-sufficiency under the proposed scheme.

Mr. Uemae stated that separate accounts would provide for accountability in this area.

Monsignor Kekumano thanked Mr. Uemae for his efforts in preparing and presenting this proposal and asked Mr. Murayama to address the Commission.

Mr. Murayama: Director of Department of Water Supply

Boards and Commissions

Mr. Murayama prefaced his comments on the Water Department by stating that he agreed with Mayor Cravalho's position on Boards and Commissions. However, he pointed out that the present Boards and Commissions were not doing a good job. However, chaos could

Mr. Shigeto Murayama

develop due to the current structure with independent Board. Mr. Murayama stated that currently, the Board of Water Supply is not "Marching freely to Georgia" and there is no chaos. He reflected that depending on who the people select as Mayor, the County could either have a smooth run, efficient government or a chaotic one no matter what the form of government--strong Mayor, weak Mayor, City Manager.

Fiscal Aspects of Department of Water Supply

Mr. Murayama pointed out that the fiscal aspects of the Department of Water Supply should be separated from the Department of Finance. He stated that the revenue bonds issued by the Water Board require a separate and complete financial statement and quarterly reports for the bond buyers. This will create problems he insisted, emphasizing the difficulty in providing such reports through the Department of Finance. Mr. Murayama conceded that the merger would be performed but it would require keeping separate books and extra work. He stated that it was possible to merge functions under various circumstances.

Rate Fixing

Mr. Murayama indicated that the setting of water rates should be kept out of politics. He stressed that it was difficult for the Council to deal with the need for rate increases. He stated his opinion that no matter how efficiently the Department of Water Supply is administered there is no way to decrease rates, unless there is some additional revenues. Currently, revenues are derived solely from the sale of water. In his view, the Department should be self-supporting.

Merging Sewer Division and Water Department

With regard to combining the functions of the sewer division of Public Works and the Water Department, Mr. Murayama indicated that this could work depending on the people involved. He pointed out that Honolulu had decided to keep the functions separate but he didn't feel that electorate understood the issues involved when they voted against the merger. If the sewer fee to the public is to be tied to water consumption, the natural administrative result in Mr. Murayama's opinion, would be to merger sewer division and the water department.

Questions from Commission

Msgr. Kekumano referring to Mr. Uemae's presentation asked Mr. Murayama to give an opinion as to the disadvantage of the proposal.

Mr. Murayama stated that the proposal had considerable merit and gave good directions. The only problem area would be bonds. He stated that the chief executive would only have one key person, the Director of Public Works, to deal with under proposal. Mr. Murayama felt that administratively, this would be helpful.

Mr. Murayama commented that it was important to have the water Board as a cushion between the department and the public. He felt that it would be difficult for the department to be taken closer to politics through the Council.

Mr. Souki questioned a weakness in the present system, in that the Mayor has no power of direction with regard to the Water Department.

Mr. Murayama responded by pointing out that the Mayor would normally appoint people with his own philosophy to the Water Board and this would provide consistent direction.

Mr. Souki asked if the Planning Director should serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Water Supply?

Questions from Commission

Mr. Murayama indicated that the present structure was a carry-over from the state statute. The question is whether it is better to have a small Board or a large Board. He stated there is a need to have Department of Health representation on the Board because the Department of Health inspects the water system. However, a small Board is easier to work with and more efficient.

Ms. Cameron commented that initially the Water department was separated from the County in order to issue revenue bonds. However, now the County can issue revenue and general obligation bonds, and the initial logic for the separation appears no longer valid.

Mr. Murayama agreed with Ms. Cameron's statement.

Ms. Cameron asked Mr. Murayama would he prefer the Department of Water Supply to remain separated from County? Mr. Murayama responded that he had no strong preference. He commented the flexibility in remaining separate from the County.

Mr. Petro asked if County interests would be better served if the Water department separate? Mr. Murayama stated that the issue is really dependent on the people involved. If a weak Mayor did exist, he could see the value to an independent agency.

Ms. Cameron asked Mr. Murayama, could he suggest any changes in the Charter? Mr. Murayama had no recommendations.

Mr. Mancini asked if Mr. Murayama agreed that the County would be under a distinct disadvantage in its planning policies; if it couldn't tie and control the County's water resource to planning?

Mr. Murayama agreed.

There being no further questions, Msgr. Kekumano thanked Mr. Murayama for his presentation.

There being no further business before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be June 2, 1975 with Chief Abraham Aiona of the Police Department and Mr. Winston Miyahira of the Liquor Department as guest speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonora Balidoy, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Office of the Director

Engineering

Serves as engineering arm of the county  
Serves as staff to the Director's Office  
Performs in-house project designs  
Performs construction inspections  
Develop standards and specifications  
Traffic Engineering

*Staff Lie Dietrich's Office*

Codes Land Use Enforcement

Administers the following codes and ordinances:  
Subdivision ordinance  
Housing Code  
Building Code  
Electrical Code  
Plumbing Code  
Sign Ordinance  
Excavation of County Highway Ordinance  
Driveway Ordinance  
Sewer Connection Ordinance  
Numbering of Buildings Ordinance  
Grading Ordinance

Highways

Garages  
Construction & Maintenance of highways  
Maintenance of drainage ways  
Refuse Collection and disposal  
Cesspool pumping  
Traffic signs & markings

Districts:

*hart  
Mel.  
Mara.  
Kell.  
Wahlke  
Kanis*

Sewers

Operate & maintain sewage facilities  
Sewer user charge Ordinance

*July 1974 Building Division Before July 1974*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

ENGINEERING

Design  
Public Contract Administration

LAND USE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT

Grading Ord.  
Subdivision Ord.  
Housing Ord.  
Building Code  
Plumbing Code  
Electrical Code  
Sign Ord.  
Driveway Ord.  
Excavation of County  
Highways Ord.  
Numbering of Buildings

SEWER

Sewer Ord.

WATER

Rules and Regulations

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse Collection and Disposal Ord.

MAINTENANCE

County Rights of Ways  
Parks Facilities and Grounds  
County Buildings  
Cemeteries  
Drainage  
Garages  
Traffic Signs & Markings