

MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION
WAILUKU/KAHALUI DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: October 7, 1975
PLACE: Cameron Center, Wailuku, Maui, 96793
CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.
PRESIDING: Commissioner Monsignor Charles Kekumano, Chairman
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mrs. Edwina Bright
Mrs. Margaret Cameron
Hideo Abe
Catalino Agliam
Dr. Sanae Moikeha
Ralph Murakami
Stephen Petro
Lloyd Sodetani
Joseph Souki
Allan Sparks
STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Cecilia T. Marciel, Public Relations Director
Mrs. Leonora Balidoy, Commission Secretary

The first scheduled public meeting conducted by the Charter Commission was held at the Cameron Center, Wailuku, Hawaii, October 7, 1975

Twenty-one people were present including four members of the press corps, exclusive of commissioners and staff. (Refer to attendance sheet attached hereto and made a part of these minutes).

Chairman Kekumano explained the purpose of the public meeting: primarily to present to the public, proposals and ramifications involved in all aspects of the revision of the Maui County Charter; to hear and consider any suggestions, proposals and/or recommendations the public would care to offer, and referred to them as "important issues".

COUNCIL COMPOSITION

Commissioner Allan Sparks was introduced and using his maps and posters illustrated the pros and cons of different electoral systems; and/or to consider retaining the existing system. (Refer to attachment).

Audience participation and discussion was lively. The general consensus:

1. That Lanai and Molokai should each have its own councilman, elected by voters/residents of those areas only, ... "even though they are not contiguous". Commissioner Sparks said that recent decision rendered by the Supreme Court states... "that in elections by districts, all districts must be equal in population."
2. That the "West Side", because of its population, should elect its own councilman.
3. That unequal distribution of precincts is unfair.
4. What criteria will be followed whereby percentage of Council elected by districts of equal population and remainder (Council) elected on at-large basis? Answer by Mr. Sparks: He said that illustrations are only examples using natural boundaries as shown on existing system of electoral districts and precincts.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Margaret Cameron presented proposals regarding transfer of maintenance responsibilities of PARKS AND RECREATION to PUBLIC WORKS. Some felt it a good idea to combine all maintenance into one department; that it would enhance accountability. Others felt it was a "lousy idea" and would increase the system of "passing the buck". (Refer to attachment).

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS

Commissioner Margaret Cameron also elaborated that the combined common objectives would increase accountability. (Refer to attachment). The main concern in discussion that followed was the increased cost of government operations. Chairman Kekumano stated that the Commission is unable to say; and that it has not gone into detail as to how successful the Department of Human Resources (a comparable agency in Honolulu) is operating. Upon further questioning, Commissioner Souki interjected that the Commission's feeling is if the County gathered all these different agencies relating to "human concerns", such as housing, youth programs, elderly, manpower programs, transportation and the like into one department, theoretically the costs could be minimized. Some did not agree.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Joseph Souki presented considerations and options pertaining thereto. Mr. Kazuo Kage, Chairman, Planning Commission, read his prepared statement. (Refer to statement attached). Chairman Kekumano remarked that many points raised by Mr. Kage had been taken into consideration. However, "the Commission feels that the Planning Director should be a part of the administrations's team, rather than an individual sitting by himself, independent of the administration". During discussion it was generally agreed that Planning is one of the most sensitive areas facing the County today. It was also felt that the Land Use and Codes now under Public Works should be directed into the Planning Department.

Discussion followed:

1. If elected officials are changed - a new planning director named - what happens to the previous plans, etc?
2. Shouldn't there be accountability to the people rather than to developers?

3. What about intra-departmental coordination or adversary relationship?
4. What about "lay-people" involvement as opposed to experienced and/or those technically oriented to long range planning?
5. Chairman reminded all that if a man is elected mayor who has campaigned on certain issues and goals for the future of the County and he inherits a planning director whom he does not agree with, there would be a conflict.
6. The system allows very little opportunity for lay-people from such places as Kula or Lahaina, etc., to have direct in-put or to find out what is being proposed on the Planning or Land Use level either by private land-owners or developers or by something generated by the Commission or Planning staff.
7. According to the present Charter, the Council has final authority regarding sub-divisions, land use, zoning.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY/Commissioner Joseph Souki

Commissioner Souki illustrated the Board of Water Supply organizational make-up and said it is similar to the Department of Planning which is semi-autonomous. (Refer to attachment).

Discussion on several points:

1. Water - an integral part of planning.
2. Long range planning could be lost if a non-independent agency is created.
3. Does not the water department share some heavy type equipment with public works department?
4. Are there some water bonds outstanding?
5. What are the terms of the indentures?
6. An independent or semi-autonomous water board could better set rates.
7. That it was the decision of the County - consequently the water department is the only department which appeared before the legislature seeking CIP funds.

On merging SEWAGE with BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY:

Discussion:

1. Provide for centralization.
2. Fiscal Efficiency.
3. Used water could be utilized for agricultural purposes.
4. Same meter and billing system.

5. Director appointed or a board created - either/or?

COUNCIL TERM OF OFFICE: (Refer to attachment)

Commissioner Sodemani elaborated that a four-year term would be an incentive for councilmen to accomplish their goals.

1. Less time spent on campaigning.
2. Cost factor to the County would be greatly reduced (as it pertains to elections).
3. Could adversely affect the people - in the 4-year term it might insulate the elected officials from the voters.
4. Longer term could create some apathy on the part of councilmen.
5. Limited terms would eliminate "empire building".
6. Encourage "new blood" candidates.
7. "Lame Duck" officials do not offer much.
8. Limited terms would restrict voters from re-electing a qualified, experienced person.
9. Staggered terms would not enhance cost of government.
10. It is possible that there would be a new set of officials at the end of 8 years.
11. The consensus - there should be some kind of limitation of terms of office.
12. Difficult for any challenger to overcome an incumbent in any system.
13. Whatever system is used, the mayor and councilmen should be held more accountable to the people.

COUNCIL OFFICE VACANCY: (Refer to attachment)

Chairman Kekumano related that the present Charter does not go into any detail as to how any vacancy on the council should be filled if and when it occurs. Up to this point, it has been done on an Ordinance basis. The Chairman requested that all consider the proposals as set forth in the attachment.

Discussion:

1. If the Council determined to choose the candidate with the next highest number of votes, should he or she be of the same political party?
2. If not, would it deter from the two-party system?
3. What if the candidate happened to be a non-partisan?

4. Chairman Kekumano stated State Laws require a candidate to be a member of a specific political party, due to the Closed Primary Election Laws; therefore, legislation would be mandatory.

COUNTY ATTORNEY: (Refer to attachment)

Discussion:

1. To divide the present County Attorney's office, to wit:
 - A. Corporation Counsel
 - B. Office of the Public Prosecutor would eliminate a conflict of interest.
2. Should they be elected positions?

MANAGING DIRECTOR:

At this point, the Chairman referred to Mr. Paul Mancini (present in the audience) "for the commendable work he did for this Commission".

Chairman went on to say that position of Managing Director should not be confused with "City Manager".

Discussion:

1. Managing Director would act in the Mayor's stead during his absence.
2. He would assist the mayor by doing constant evaluations of all county departments.
3. This is not the creation of a new department.
4. The Managing Director would also be an aide to the Mayor.
5. At present, the Finance Director takes over the role of "Acting Mayor".

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM:

Monsignor Kekumano stated that the Commission had discussed the possibility of expanding the time for a period of 60 to 90 days; however, no definite conclusions had been reached.

COST OF GOVERNMENT:

Discussion:

The purpose of this Commission would be to have oversee of the finances of the County and to a public report. This is not to be confused with an audit. Included also would be the setting of salaries of elected officials.

The question was raised as to why this Commission does not do a comprehensive study on the efficiency

October 7, 1975
Page 6

or inefficiencies of government. The Chairman said that the Commission was created for one year and it could not possibly go into that; however, this is one of the reasons for considering a middle management position in the administration; i.e. Managing Director.

Another question raised....What has the Charter Commission done about focusing on some of the things that makes government so costly? Chairman Kekumano said that in all the presentations made by Commissioners, it had been pointed out where costs would increase or not. He reiterated that the function of this Commission is to analyze or study the structure of the Charter and all the considerations offered at this meeting have been with this in mind.

There was a short discussion on the matter of setting a minimum age for mayoral candidates; some felt a candidate should not be penalized because of his youth - others felt it could go either way.

It was pointed out, also, that there is a team of professional consultants making a study at this present time on the "Cost of Government" and the Commission is awaiting its report. The Chairman emphasized there were no costs involved in this task.

There was no further business - meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR THE COMMISSION:


Cecilia T. Marciel

10/7/75 CHAIRER COMMISSION

PLEASE SIGN:

NAME

WAIKAI Public Mtg

ORGANIZATION, ETC.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Heiman J. DeKego | MAUI CONTRACTORS ASSN. |
| 2. Juli Chase | MAUI NEWS |
| 3. [Signature] | Gov. Advertiser |
| 4. [Signature] | MAUI PUBLIC LIBRARY |
| 5. [Signature] | |
| 6. Bob Gabitarini | |
| 7. WAYNE UHENE | |
| 8. Robert McCole | Honolulu Star-Bulletin. |
| 9. Ken Edwards | " " " |
| 10. James Kegg | Planning Commission. |
| 11. [Signature] | Citizen |
| 12. [Signature] | |
| 13. Dickie Shelly Jr | Rep. Party |
| 14. [Signature] | at large |
| 15. Mike Downey | Rep. Party Chairman |
| 16. [Signature] | see |
| 18. Mr/Mrs. Roger Knox | |
| 20. " " C. Street | |
| 21. " " D.E. Culnan | |

all Commissioners present (11)
Staff - 2