

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
Friday, December 8, 2017

The Board of Water, County of Kaua'i, met in a special meeting at Department of Water's Board Room in Lihue on Friday, December 8, 2017. Chair Sherman Shiraishi called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

BOARD: Mr. Sherman Shiraishi, *Board Chair*  
Ms. Laurie Ho  
Mr. Lyle Tabata  
Mr. Michael Dahilig  
Mr. Thomas Canute  
Mr. Lawrence Dill

EXCUSED: Ms. Beth Tokioka

Quorum was achieved with 6 members present.

STAFF: Mr. Kirk Saiki Mr. Dustin Moises  
Ms. MJ Akuna Ms. Marites Yano  
Mr. Keith Aoki Ms. Sandi Nadatani-Mendez  
Mr. Bryan Wienand Ms. Jonell Kaohelaulii  
Mr. Valentino Reyna Mr. Joel Bautista  
Mr. Ryan Smith Ms. Bekki Malapit  
Mr. Chris Nakamura Mr. Jett Levinthol  
Mr. Eddie Doi Mr. Michael Hinazumi  
Deputy County Attorney Mahealani Krafft

GUESTS: Mr. Hall Parrott, Private Citizen

**C. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Dill moved to approve the Agenda as circulated; seconded by Mr. Tabata; with no objections; motion carried with 6 ayes.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and Possible Action on selecting an interim Manager and Chief Engineer and the recruitment of a Manager and Chief Engineer, and the development of a succession plan

Chair Shiraishi announced that during the meeting the Board would go into Executive Session. He opened up for testimony but read the testimony rules first. There were no questions after the rules were read. There were no written testimony submitted or public testimony.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chair Shiraishi commented that on a previous Special Board meeting (12-2-17), there were names that came up to see if individuals were interested in the temporary Manager's position who were not current engineers of the Department. The individuals were retired engineers, former Department engineers, engineers in the private sector, and/or engineers who work for Department of Transportation (DOT), or Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). Chair Shiraishi also had a list of the individuals who were contacted. Mr. Tabata followed up with some of the potential applicants, however, they did not respond or declined. Mr. Dill did not get a response from his contacts and preferred to discuss this in Executive Session. Chair Shiraishi mentioned he wanted transparency. Director of Department of Human Resources Ms. Janine Rapozo would not be present at this meeting.

Chair Shiraishi and Manager Saiki met last night with one of the prospective candidates.

Mr. Canute moved to go into Executive Session at 12:11 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Tabata; with no objections, motion was unanimous with 6 members.

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*Pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 92-4 and § 92-5(a)(2) and (4), the purpose of this Executive Session is for the Board to consider the hiring, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of the Manager and Chief Engineer or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved; provided that if the individual concerned requests an open meeting, an open meeting shall be held and to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities as they may relate to this agenda item.*

At 1:48 p.m., Chair Shiraishi and Mr. Thomas Canute exited the Executive Session meeting.

At 1:48 p.m., Vice Chair Ho called the meeting back to order.

**DISCUSSION:**

Manager Saiki commented there would be written public testimony which was received by the Commission Support Clerk who made copies for the Board to read. (Attached)

Vice Chair Ho asked for individuals who want to testify to state their name, where they work, if they are a lobbyist and their address for the record.

***Ms. Marites Yano, lives in Lihue, is the Waterworks Controller for the Department of Water and is not a lobbyist provided her testimony.***

Ms. Yano did not realize she would miss Manager Saiki until now since the Board is looking for a Manager and Chief Engineer (MCE). It took courage for her to testify today. She and her co-workers were surprised when the Board mentioned they were looking outside the Department of Water (DOW) for an Interim Manager. Ms. Yano said staff prays that the Board does not rush to hire a permanent MCE. She fears that the Board is looking for a permanent Manager in less than a month.

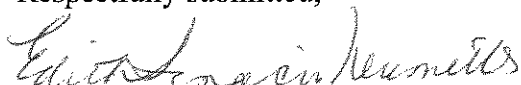
Being with the DOW for 17 years, Ms. Yano has been through five Managers. She expressed that the Board use due diligence in finding the right MCE. There are capable engineers at DOW who could serve as an Interim Manager while the Board goes through the hiring process. The Board would have sufficient time to find qualified engineers who will serve "permanently."

Ms. Yano said the staff would respect the Board's decision and, whoever the Board chooses as the Interim Manager, it should be someone that will support the mission of the Department.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dahilig moved to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 1:54 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Tabata; with no objections; motion carried with 4 ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Edith Ignacio Neumiller  
Commission Support Clerk

Approved,

  
Beth Tokioka  
Secretary – Board of Water Supply

Attached one (1) Testimony received 12-8-17.

RECEIVED FOR THE RECORD

DEC 8 2017

To the Board of Water Supply,

The Water Department is in DIRE NEED of strong, thorough, and honest leadership! Somebody who is NOT going to be afraid to have a firm backbone, or cower down because of politics. Somebody who can not only lead an entire Department fairly, correctly, and honestly, but also possess strong and fair leadership, treat others equally, not be afraid to admit wrong, hungry to learn and grow, and somebody who genuinely cares to do what's right, no matter what the cost! The Department has been in disarray for many, many, years. There are so many things that are unfair, unjust, and wrong. These things have gone on far too long, and must be changed in order to restore what has been broken for so many years. This is the time for change. The decision you make today, will be critical to the future of this Department.