HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMERGENCY MEETING

1002 North School Street, Building A Boardroom
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
9:30 a.m.

AGENDA

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE CALL OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ONLY INCLUDING BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL, AND THE PUBLIC.

The Governor’s Tenth Supplementary Proclamation dated July 17, 2020, suspended Chapter 92, HRS, Part I. Meetings, to the extent necessary to enable Boards to conduct meetings without any board members or members of the public physically present in the same location.

In consideration of the current COVID-19 situation, the HPHA’s offices are closed to the public. Individuals should submit written testimony no later than 7:45 am on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 which will be distributed to Board members. You may submit written testimony via email to didi.l.ahakuelo@hawaii.gov or by U.S. mail to PO Box 17907, Honolulu, HI 96817.

The public may participate in the Board meeting as it happens via Zoom app at: https://zoom.us/j/95871627145?pwd=dXlgbXFPtOM2zhTUpkZVhIT3RvQ0pXQT09. (Please click on this link.) When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: 958 7162 7145 and the Password: 2Q5q3M.

Alternatively, the public may also participate via telephone by calling: 1-669-900-6833. When prompted, callers should enter the Meeting ID: 958 7162 7145 and the Password: 51824. We request that meeting participants change the display on their device to show their first and last name to expedite rollcall. Please keep in mind that many devices will display your cellphone number if not changed.

The Board will consider public testimony on any item relevant to this agenda. Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and section 17-2000-18, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Board may limit public testimony to three minutes per agenda item.

I. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Board of Directors finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare requires a meeting in less time than is provided for in HRS § 92-7 so the Board can discuss and adopt emergency measures and rules to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 at the HPHA properties for the following reasons:
1. Governor David Y. Ige declared a state of emergency in the State of Hawaii due to COVID-19 by issuing an Emergency Proclamation on March 4, 2020, that was extended by Supplementary Proclamations, most recently on July 17, 2020, which extended the emergency through August 31, 2020;

2. The HPHA staff reported a sudden and significant increase of COVID-19 cases among the residents at the following properties:
   - Kuhio Park Terrace Low Rise – 1 active case
   - The Towers at Kuhio Park (KPT Towers) – 16 new active cases (this property is privately owned and managed, however, it is a contiguous property with Kuhio Park Terrace Low Rise and Kuhio Homes)
   - Kalihi Valley Homes – 5 positive cases; 2 are recovered (not active); 3 are active; 2 new cases pending confirmation
   - Puahala Homes – 1 recovered case
   - Hauiki – 1 active case (hospitalized)
   - Mayor Wright Homes – 2 active cases
   - Kaahumanu Homes – 1 active case
   - Punchbowl Homes – 1 positive case that has recovered (not active)
   - Hookipa Kahaluu – 1 positive case
   - Palolo Homes – 1 positive case that has recovered (not active) (this property is privately owned and managed, however, it is near Palolo Valley Homes Federal Public Housing)
   - Palolo Valley Homes – 1 new case pending confirmation
   - Puuwai Momi – 5 positive cases, under isolation/quarantine in Waikiki (all from one household); 4 people from that same household awaiting test results;

3. The HPHA staff reported numerous residents at the HPHA properties are not social distancing or wearing facial coverings (e.g. masks), are congregating in groups, and have allowed friends and family to perform their travel quarantine in their public housing unit.

4. The HPHA staff reported one employee at the School Street Offices and one at AMP 32/33 tested positive for COVID-19 and the test results are pending for one other employee at AMP 32/33 and 13 other employees at the School Street campus.

II. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHING QUORUM

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

The Board will consider public testimony on any item relevant to this agenda at this time. Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and section 17-
2000-18, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Board may limit public testimony to three minutes per agenda item.

IV. DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION MAKING

A. To (1) Adopt Amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rules Entitled “Hawaii Public Housing Authority Emergency Rules Relating to COVID-19 Emergency”, to Set Forth Rules Regarding Facial Coverings and Practicing Six Feet Minimum Physical Distancing at all Times, Visitor Restrictions, Gathering Restrictions, Mandating the Wearing of Face Coverings and Vacating the Unit or Isolating in an Area at Least Six Feet Away when Staff are Conducting Repairs or Other Official Business in a Tenant’s Unit, and Penalties for Non-Compliance with these Rules; and (2) Authorize the Executive Director to Undertake All Other Actions Necessary to Make Non-Substantive and Technical Amendments and Implement these Rules.


(The Board may go into executive session pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes sections 92-4 and 92-5(a)(4) to consult with the Board’s attorneys on questions and issues pertaining to the Board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities related to this agenda item.)

The Board agenda for this meeting is available for inspection on the HPHA’s website: http://www.hpha.hawaii.gov/boardinfo/packets.htm.
The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority held an Emergency Board Meeting at 1002 North School Street, on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Pursuant to the Governor’s Tenth Supplementary Proclamation dated July 17, 2020, suspending Chapter 92, HRS, Part I Meetings, to the extent necessary to enable Boards to conduct meetings without any board members or members of the public physically present in the same location, the Hawaii Public Housing Authority conducted the Board meeting by use of teleconference call or other alternative means of communication only without a physical quorum present in the boardroom at 1002 N. School Street, Honolulu, HI 96817. At approximately 9:43 a.m., Chairperson Hall called the meeting to order, held a roll call and declared a quorum present. Those present were as follows:

**PRESENT:**
Director Robert Hall, Chairperson
Director Pono Shim, Vice-Chairperson
Director Roy Katsuda, Secretary
Director George De Mello
Designee Daisy Hartsfield
Director Betty Lou Larson
Director Leilani Pulmano
Director Kymberly Sparlin
Director Todd Taniguchi
Deputy Attorney General Klemen Urbanc

**EXCUSED:**
Director Susan Kunz

**STAFF PRESENT:**
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Barbara Arashiro, Executive Assistant
Benjamin Park, Chief Planner

**OTHERS PRESENT (via Zoom/teleconference):**
Zara Aki, Kam Homes
Stacie Brach, Michaels Management
Annalisa Burgos
Rick Daysog, HNN
Laura DeVilbiss
Michael Epp, Kokua Kalihi Valley
Brandon Hegland, Michaels Organization
Desiree Kihano, Palolo Valley Homes
Chairperson Hall reported that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Board of Directors found an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare required a meeting in less time than is provided for in HRS § 92-7 so the Board can discuss and adopt emergency measures and rules to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 at the HPHA properties for the following reasons:

1. Governor David Y. Ige declared a state of emergency in the State of Hawaii due to COVID-19 by issuing an Emergency Proclamation on March 4, 2020, that was extended by Supplementary Proclamations, most recently on July 17, 2020, which extended the emergency through August 31, 2020;

2. The HPHA staff reported a sudden and significant increase of COVID-19 cases among the residents at the following properties:

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- Palolo Valley Homes – 1 new case pending confirmation
- Puuwai Momi – 5 positive cases, under isolation/quarantine in Waikiki (all from one household); 4 people from that same household awaiting test results;

3. The HPHA staff reported numerous residents at the HPHA properties are not social distancing or wearing facial coverings (e.g. masks), are congregating in
groups, and have allowed friends and family to perform their travel quarantine in their public housing unit; and

4. The HPHA staff reported one employee at the School Street Offices and one at AMP 32/33 tested positive for COVID-19 and the test results are pending for one other employee at AMP 32/33 and 13 other employees at the School Street campus.

Public Testimony

In consideration of the current COVID-19 situation, the HPHA’s physical office locations are closed to the public. Individuals were allowed to submit written testimony no later than 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 which would be distributed to the Board members. The public was instructed to submit written testimony via email to didi.l.ahakuelo@hawaii.gov or by U.S. mail to PO Box 17907, Honolulu, HI 96817. The public was also allowed to participate via Zoom app or teleconference.

Chairperson Hall stated that the Board would accept public testimony on any item relevant to the agenda. Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and section 17-2000-18, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Board may limit public testimony to three minutes per agenda item.

Anni Peterson, Director of Hawaii Operations at The Towers at Kuhio Park, thanked HPHA for their attention and efforts during these unprecedented times. She stated that she was gifted a case of face masks which she’s been distributing. Only having a few face masks left, Ms. Peterson asked if there are resources available that could be gifted to the residents.

Executive Director Ouansafí acknowledged that The Towers is privately owned and managed by Michaels Development. Providing all the necessary safety measures is the responsibilities of each privately owned company and their managers. Executive Director Ouansafí reported having discussions with Michaels Management who assured HPHA that they have all the necessary tools and PPEs. If that isn’t the case, Executive Director Ouansafí advised Michaels Management to contact HPHA who will be happy to assist.

Nabin Oli, Medical Care Coordinator working at Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, stated that their satellite clinic is located at KPT Tower A. Recognizing these difficult times, he acknowledged the importance of providing medical care and face masks to those who need. Mr. Oli offered his support and assistance to HPHA.

Zara Aki was acknowledged when “raising her hand” but she neither responded nor provided comments.
Desiree Kihano, Palolo Valley Homes tenant, testified in support of the amendments and hopes the amended rules remain in effect until the threat of COVID-19 is no more. She stated witnessing gatherings on Oahu. Since her return from visiting the Big Island, Ms. Kihano was pleased to see that people are now following the COVID-19 guidelines.

Discussion and Decision Making

Director Shim moved,

To (1) Adopt Amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rules Entitled "Hawaii Public Housing Authority Emergency Rules Relating to COVID-19 Emergency", to Set Forth Rules Regarding Facial Coverings and Practicing Six Feet Minimum Physical Distancing at all Times, Visitor Restrictions, Gathering Restrictions, Mandating the Wearing of Face Coverings and Vacating the Unit or Isolating in an Area at Least Six Feet Away when Staff are Conducting Repairs or Other Official Business in a Tenant's Unit, and Penalties for Non-Compliance with these Rules; and (2) Authorize the Executive Director to Undertake All Other Actions Necessary to Make Non-Substantive and Technical Amendments and Implement these Rules

Executive Director Ouansafi thanked the Board for agreeing to convene and reported that this was the first time he needed to request for an Emergency meeting. He also thanked his staff and the Deputy Attorney Generals for their efforts on this important matter.

Executive Director Ouansafi reported that HPHA staff are considered essential workers, where over 300 staff serve approximately 40,000 tenants. In the effort to keep the tenants and staff safe, HPHA established some rules, which include wearing of face masks (provided by HPHA) and instructing maintenance staff to only work on vacant units unless deemed an emergency repair/maintenance. In the event that the maintenance staff need to work on occupied units, specific protocols and safety measures are followed to ensure the wellbeing of the staff and tenants.

Although the offices are closed to the public, HPHA staff continue to report to work. As a result, HPHA was able to house approximately 80 new families during the month of July. Executive Director Ouansafi reported teaming up with the Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Nurses and the National Guard with community outreaches and continue to educate housing tenants. Many ongoing efforts and supplying of face masks and hand sanitizers assisted with keeping the amount of COVID-19 cases low.

Executive Director Ouansafi was alarmed when he learnt a few days ago that one of the KPT Towers had 16 active cases (more than the total known cases combined at the 85 HPHA housing properties). HPHA recognized there was a need for the proposed Amended Emergency Rules to address the risk of the rapid spread of COVID-19 and to
protect all public housing tenants, especially the elderly and disabled tenants and those tenants with underlying health conditions.

The proposed Amended Emergency Rules relating to COVID-19 were provided to the Board and were briefly explained by Executive Director Ouansafi. Some of the amended rules included wearing of face coverings in all public housing properties, maintaining six feet minimum physical distancing at all times, and gathering restrictions. Executive Director Ouansafi added that these rules are temporary and will only be in effect while the worldwide pandemic is an issue, and violations will be issued to those who don’t follow the amended rules.

Designee Hartsfield asked if the amendments were reviewed by the Attorney General’s office and how the tenants will be notified if the motion passes.

Executive Director Ouansafi confirmed that the amendments were reviewed by Deputy Attorney General Urbanc. If the motion passes, every household will receive notification via letter, email, telephone and via Resident Association.

Director Sparlin pointed out that the Board packet mentioned that the rules will also be posted on the applicable website and in a newspaper for general circulation.

Executive Director Ouansafi confirmed what was presented in the Board packet and reported that the proposed rules are already posted on the HPHA website. Once approved, the proposed amended rules will be replaced with the signed amended rules.

Director Pulmano, being the newest HPHA Board member, asked for Executive Director Ouansafi to highlight on the actions HPHA has carried out as it relates to COVID-19.

Executive Director Ouansafi reported on the following efforts executed by HPHA:

- At the start of the pandemic, HPHA began with educating the housing tenants with the distribution of DOH, CDC and HUD flyers.
- As the pandemic grew nationwide, HPHA purchased and distributed face masks to all its tenants and staff, where additional reusable cloth masks were also given to the elderly tenants.
- Maintenance staff were instructed to work on vacant units only, unless considered an emergency repair.
- HPHA teamed up with DOH and other entities to do outreach and educate tenants door-to-door.
- HPHA created a new website www.hphaishereforyou.org to provide multiple resources and information, which gets updated regularly.
- When informed of an active case at a housing property, HPHA will provide additional educational materials and flyers to that property and go door-to-door to inform the tenants of the positive case. Staff are also informed.
- Outreach continues. Executive Director Ouansafi thanked the DOH, Public Health Nurses and other non-profit entities for their collaborative efforts.
• For the elderly and disabled tenants, HPHA teamed up with FEMA and HI-EMA to provide hot meals. Approximately 8,000 meals have already been distributed.
• HPHA staff made cloth masks for distribution to tenants.
• In addition to purchasing and distributing face masks, HPHA also provided gloves and hand sanitizers.
• Some vacant units are available at different locations if needed to isolate families who have fallen ill to COVID-19.
• Emergency kits are available to households with a positive case. Emergency kits include protective masks, gloves, wipes, disinfectants and food services.

Of the 85 housing properties managed by HPHA, Executive Director Ouansafi reported having 15 active DOH confirmed cases. This doesn’t count the active cases at The Towers, since that property is privately owned and managed.

Executive Director Ouansafi recognized a misunderstanding in the community, where the public will associate low-income properties with HPHA, which isn’t always the case.

Director Pulmano asked if HPHA has an adequate supply of PPE masks for both its staff and tenants that need them. She also sought more information on the implementation of safety measures in the common areas (i.e. laundry room and elevators) at the housing properties.

Executive Director Ouansafi verified that HPHA has an ample supply and access to PPE masks. HPHA has approximately 30,000 face masks, and masks get distributed regularly and as requested by the property managers statewide. He added that an additional 100,000 face masks have been ordered and that HPHA has thousands of bottles of hand sanitizers. Executive Director Ouansafi also reported that as of August 3, 2020, all HPHA staff reporting to work will have their body temperature taken as a precautionary measure to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Staff have been instructed to do frequent cleaning in the common areas (at the housing properties and offices) with the use of Clorox wipes and other disinfectant products. When informed of a positive case, safety measures are implemented immediately. For example, when informed that a staff was positive with COVID-19, HPHA hired a professional cleaning company to thoroughly sanitize the work offices and vehicles. When aware of a positive case in the housing properties, security is informed and are instructed to enforce no gatherings and staff to conduct increased cleaning. When using of the elevators, tenants are to practice six feet minimum physical distancing for the capacity of two individuals, each at separate corners.

Director Shim discussed the significance of connection versus correction. He explained how he views COVID-19 as a virtual weed-whacker. Director Shim explained how there’s a known peripheral area around those who are weed-whacking, where weed-whackers will stop if they see someone approaching or those passing if not seen will walk around to avoid being hit by debris. Recognizing that there aren’t enough resources to correct everyone, Director Shim encouraged looking at how we can converse with others in a way to connect with them so they understand. He stated that
in his office building, they are mandated on how many people are allowed in an elevator at any given time and encouraged HPHA to consider the same action.

Chairperson Hall requested that Executive Director Ouansafi to summarize the proposed amended rules that were provided to the Board.

Executive Director Ouansafi reported that HPHA provided the Department of Transportation (DOT) a list of addresses for the HPHA’s housing properties. HPHA was made aware by DOT that a family at one of the housing properties confirmed travelers were staying with them and falsely stated that HPHA gave authorization. Upon HPHA staff visiting the unit the following day, the visitors had already left the premises and HPHA contacted the proper authorities.

Executive Director Ouansafi screen shared and read through the proposed Amended Emergency Rules relating to COVID-19, which included mandatory facial coverings, visitor restrictions, gathering restricted, entering a tenant’s unit and penalties (§17-§21). Everything underlined in the document displayed what was added to the existing Emergency Rules that were approved by the Board.

Director Taniguchi recognized that this is a challenging time and sought more information on how educating tenants will accompany the enforcement of the proposed amended rules. For instance, if someone breaks quarantine due to the need for food, will HPHA be offering resources to assist. He also asked if Executive Director Ouansafi could address the public concern on the usage of the elevators. Director Taniguchi recognized the concerns being brought up in the Zoom Chat and explained the importance of communication and offering the opportunity for tenants to ask questions, as there are a lot of unknowns with the nature of COVID-19. He asked if any tenant surveys have been conducted to evaluate fears or issues that the tenants have or are facing.

Executive Director Ouansafi reported that HPHA secured a contract with caterers through monies from FEMA and HI-EMA to provide food or grocery delivery to those who are quarantined with COVID-19. He clarified that the DOH monitors COVID-19 positive cases and HPHA has been confirming with DOH that their tenants have been complying with the quarantine instructions. If HPHA becomes aware of tenants violate the quarantine guidelines, HPHA will contact DOH for further enforcement. Executive Director Ouansafi reported that signage have been placed indicating that one or two people are to use the elevator at a time, depending on the size of the elevator. HPHA has been regularly communicating with and getting guidance from the DOH. Executive Director Ouansafi commended the PHNs and the National Guard (50-60 health professionals) with educating the tenants door-to-door on the risks of COVID-19 and allowing for two-way communication. Non-profit organizations also joined the efforts. Some surveys have been conducted and the results have been posted on the www.hphaishereforyou.org website. Additional information was given to those who needed and available resources were given to those who lacked health coverage.
Executive Director Ouansafi reassured that the health and safety of the HPHA staff and tenants have been and continue to be a priority.

Director Larson referred to the visitor restrictions and sought more information on private entities (i.e. Handi-Van or Uber) entering the housing premises. She also added how stories or diagrams can impact the community’s perception of COVID-19 and the risks it can pose on themselves and their loved ones if proper safety measures aren’t followed. Director Larson felt that many people are aware of the guidelines and facts of COVID-19, but nationwide there’s a lack of communication that connects and touches people’s hearts to truly grasp the dangers of the current worldwide pandemic.

Executive Director Ouansafi explained that companies that visit for the purpose of picking up tenants, such as Handi-Van, will be allowed onto the premises such that there is proper insurance and that facial coverings are utilized. He explained that the visitors mentioned in the proposed Amended Emergency Rules are those that come to stay and socialize. Those that come to care for tenants or for delivery are allowed. Executive Director Ouansafi recognized the importance of people connection and stated that he will be revealing more information on what his staff have been working on at future meetings.

Director Shim continued to discuss the importance of connection versus correction and the effects of how we communicate with others. He stated that he’s requested a meeting with other leaders in the Pacific Islander community and recognized how we perceive people and ourselves can play a key role with making a difference in the community. Director Shim stated that he chooses to view people as resources instead of problems. He shared a photograph of him working with children on a project that illustrated a power message to “lean in”. Director Shim stated that until connection takes place, the community won’t be able to influence the kids.

Director Larson concurred with Director Shim’s sentiments.

Director Pulmano requested that, within the proposed Amended Emergency Rules, “social distancing” be changed to “physical distancing”. She also discussed the value of and suggested having future discussions of proper testing strategies, especially in high density areas such as the HPHA housing properties.

Executive Director Ouansafi and Deputy Attorney General Urbanc stated no objections to the request to change “social distancing” to “physical distancing”.

Director Shim concurred with Director Pulmano’s request, where the community needs to physically distance themselves but socially connect.

Director Katsuda was pleased that an Emergency Board meeting was called and concurred with the message of connection. Director Katsuda stated that he was impressed with HPHA’s response to COVID-19 and remains hopeful with all the comments and suggestions that were discussed during the meeting.
Executive Director Ouansafi screen shared and briefly discussed the www.hphaishereforyou.org website.

Due to the request to change “social distancing” to “physical distancing”, Deputy Attorney General Urbanc reviewed the proposed Amended Emergency Rules in its entirety and disclosed the nine areas that needed the revision (on pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the rules).

Executive Director Ouansafi screen shared the nine areas to be revised for the Board’s review and consideration.

Chairperson Hall highlighted the purpose of the proposed Amended Emergency Rules is for the health and safety of the community. He recognized that many service providers and partners managing the housing properties were in attendance on the Zoom meeting and asked for their assistance with reaching out to those they come into contact and work closely with, as the responsibility to influence the public is everyone’s. Although implementation of the rules is significant, Chairperson Hall expressed the value of implementing the rules with as much respect and compassion as possible. He then asked for clarification on lifespan of the emergency rules.

Deputy Attorney General Urbanc clarified that the emergency rules are effective for 120 days from the date they were filed, so the emergency rules will expire September 9, 2020 unless the Board decides to extend the rules prior to the end date.

Executive Director Ouansafi confirmed that the emergency rules can be terminated or extended as needed. He thanked all the non-profit organizations, the DOH, Charlie at UPW, the DHS, the DOT, HI-EMA and FEMA for their efforts during this unprecedented time and expressed his appreciation for everyone’s cooperation and collaboration. Executive Director Ouansafi also acknowledged and commended his staff on their continued efforts and commitment to serve the public.

Director Larson referred to the last sentence in §5 (page 5) of the proposed Amended Emergency Rules and sought opinions on removing the sentence or keeping the sentence as written since “physical distancing” is used widely in the community.

Director Pulmano, Director Shim and Director Katsuda voiced keeping the sentence as originally written.

Deputy Attorney General Urbanc advised that it’d be ideal to keep the sentence as written, “Physical distancing shall mean the same as “social distancing””, where the community will understand that social distancing means to physically distance oneself. As a result, this sentence will no longer be revised.

Director Katsuda asked for clarification on the emergency rules end date.
Deputy Attorney General Urbanc clarified that the motion at hand was to amend the existing emergency rules. Since the emergency rules were signed by the Governor and filed on May 12, 2020, the rules expire September 9, 2020. Deputy Attorney General Urbanc added that if the motion is approved by the Board, the Amended Emergency Rules should take effect on the date it gets filed at the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Director Larson asked if an amended motion is needed to indicate changes were made to the proposed Amended Emergency Rules.

Executive Assistant Arashiro, Executive Director Ouansafi and Deputy Attorney General Urbanc clarified that an amended motion is not needed and that the vote is on the rules as proposed in Exhibit C with the eight changes to the wording “social distancing” changed to “physical distancing” throughout the rules.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Director Katsuda moved,

To Adjourn the Meeting

The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

MINUTES CERTIFICATION:

Minutes Prepared by:

[Signature]

Jennifer K. Menor
Secretary to the Board

AUG  20  2020

Date

Approved by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority Board of Directors at their Regular Meeting on August 20, 2020 [✓] As Presented [ ] As Amended

[Signature]

Roy Katsuda
Board Secretary

Aug 24, 2020

Date