
Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1998
ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Lacking a quorum, Chairman Abel began a meeting as a Committee of the Whole at 10:17 A.M. Chairman Abel made several comments concerning the upcoming presentations.

Chairman Abel asked if any commissioner had ideas on upcoming projects. Commissioner Crowley commented that the Commission's Unincorporated Area Report had several recommendations that have not had any action taken. Chairman Abel said that this would probably be an area that the Commission could address at the conclusion of the Public Policy Institute's study that will be presented this morning.

Commissioner Ojeda-Kimbrough asked if the Commission could do a follow-up study on Jury Management Report considering the new law that the State has enacted. Commissioner Breslauer commented that he believed that Los Angeles County has requested an exemption from this law. Commissioner Philibosian commented that the county was asking for an exemption from the time limit that the law imposed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Debt Collection Project (Commissioner Jimenez)

Chairman Abel asked Commissioner Jimenez for a briefing on the Debt Collection Project. Commissioner Jimenez stated that the presentation to the Board is planned to take about 10-15 minutes. He has scheduled a meeting with the consultants to discuss the presentation. The presentation should open with comments from the Chair, go into an overview of the study and then provide financial data and best management practices. Commissioner Jimenez stated that he would like any member of the task force to be present, but in lieu of being present, having a conversation with members of the Board would be of help.

For the information of the Commission Supervisor Knabe has made some recommendations on this issue that were continued to the October 13th presentation. The Department of Health Services has also moved forward on some recommendations concerning UCSB (a collection company). The Board has also continued this item. Additionally, the Chief Administrative Officer, David Janssen sent a memo to the Board of Supervisors expressing concern over the amount of funds identified in the report as being available for collection. Of the \$970 million presented in the report as outstanding, only \$270 million is collectable. This raised questions within the Board and caused some concern in

Sacramento.

Commissioner Stoke stated that although he agreed with major portions of the report, he did have concerns with the tenor of the report and the criticism that the Commission has offered to departments. He felt that the report should have quantified the \$1 billion and that the Commission should be careful about its work. The presentation should quantify the \$1 billion to insure that we haven't unnecessarily bashed the county. Commissioner Breslauer defended the report by stating that the \$1 billion is quantified in the report and that the issues raised by Commissioner Stoke were considered by both the Task Force and the entire Commission before publication.

Commissioner Stoke commented that he was speaking from the perspective of a person reading the report so that the work product could be quantified. Commissioner Jimenez conceded the point and stated that in the presentation he would send to the Board a chart to quantify the amounts. Commissioner Petak commented that there was discussion in the Task Force on how to present these numbers. He was also concerned about the numbers being presented since there is a larger amount of uncollectible debt, particularly in the Department of Health Services. Accounts are not a collectible unless the County has billed them and they intend to collect the amount. We could clarify social services amounts within the report more than they have been; to that extent he agrees with Commissioner Stoke. Chairman Abel commented that Federal laws restrict some of these amounts from collection. Commissioner Buerk stated that he had recommended that instead of being defined as a receivable, the report should ask the Board to budget an annual amount for services the county is required to provide.

I. CALL TO ORDER OF COMMISSION MEETING

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners being now present Chairman Abel called the Commission meeting to order at 10:40 A.M.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

David A. Abel
Ben Breslauer
Gunther Buerk
John Crowley
David W. Farrar
Michael Jimenez
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente
Carole Ojeda-Kimbrough
Roman Padilla
William J. Petak
Robert Philibosian
H. Randall Stoke

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Richard D. Barger
Hope J. Boonsaft
Jonathan Fuhrman
Chris Hammond
Marc A. Seidner
Julia E. Sylva
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS UNEXCUSED

Fred Balderrama

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: The Commission members noted above be excused.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Since the Commission lacked a quorum at its August 6th meeting, we took no action to approve the August 6, 1998 minutes. Thus, it was moved and seconded that the Commission approves both the August 6th and September 10th minutes. Commissioner Philibosian asked that the September 10th minutes be corrected to reflect an excused absence for himself.

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: The minutes of the August 6, 1998 and September 10, 1998 Commission

Meeting be approved as corrected.

V. OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

5. Real Asset Management Project (Commissioner Farrar)

Commissioner Farrar commented that the Economy and Efficiency Commission has been participating in a County Asset Management Task Force. This group serves as a sounding board for the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) with respect to asset management policy. This group has met four times to review a consultant report. The Task Force has several amendments to a proposed CAO letter to the Board. Commissioner Farrar handed out the proposed board letter with the summary of the consultant's report. The Commission will need to support the CAO in getting the resources necessary to accomplish this plan. The Task Force anticipates that the plan will save \$25 to \$30 million a year with an investment of an amount of money, likely in the \$1 million range.

VI. PRESENTATION -

[Mr. David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer, Los Angeles County.](#)
[Topic: The State of Los Angeles County](#)

[Mr. Mark Baldassare, Senior Fellow, and Mr. Michael Shires, Research Fellow, of the Public Policy Institute of California.](#)
[Topic: The Los Angeles County Project - The Role of County Government in Providing Local Services](#)

IV. INTRODUCTION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Padilla announced that he had recently become a father.

Commissioner Petak asked to be excused for the next three months since he has a work assignment outside the country.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from the floor, Chairman Abel adjourned the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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