

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

ROOM 163, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / 500 WEST TEMPLE / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012 / 974-1491

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

December 17, 1975

Members Present:

Robert Downey, Chairman
George E. Bodle
Catherine Burke
John Byork
Anne Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Carolyn Ellner
Douglas Ferguson
Richard Gunther
Leo A. Majich
Jesse Robinson
Robert Ruchti
Warren Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Gloria Starr

Members Absent:

Gus Anaya
Jerry Epstein
Milton Gordon
Mary Jane Kidd
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Dr. Robert J. Downey
Chairman

Gustave R. Anaya
George E. Bodle
Catherine Graeffe Burke
John D. Byork
Anne S. Collins
Mario Di Giovanni
Dr. Carolyn L. Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton G. Gordon
Richard S. Gunther
Mrs. Mary Jane Kidd
Leo A. Majich
Jesse L. Robinson
Robert Ruchti, II
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Gloria Starr
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary
John Campbell
Staff Specialist
Maxlynn Larsen
Commission Secretary

Robert Downey called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. He introduced new member Douglas W. Ferguson, appointed by Supervisor Schabarum. Mr. Ferguson is President of Quaker City Savings and Loan of Whittier.

Task Force on Construction Projects - The chairman of this task force, Jerry Epstein, has been in the hospital and his activities will be restricted for several weeks. In his absence, Leo Majich, member of the task force, presented the task force Report on the Facilities Department to the commission as follows.

Copies of the report were mailed to all members for review and study before today's meeting. He believes the report is concise and clear. Some things remain to be done in the area of building overdesign, plan checking, and delays in the approval of change orders. Mr. Koonce, director of the department, is directing a lot of effort to these areas in an effort to refine the County procedures. There are still problems with the Central Jail Addition, which will probably be with us for awhile, and undoubtedly, as the report states, some law suits will be filed.

He was amazed to find that the County did not have an inventory of all property under lease, but he understands that has been undertaken and is now almost complete.

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Essentially, the report highlights and does what the Board asked the task force to do - monitor the department, see what is going on and if there are any problems. He asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Shellenberger said that he thought it was a very good report and moved that it be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by John Byork and passed unanimously.

Mr. Majich asked if there were any particular instructions regarding the length of time the task force was to monitor the department. He said there were some things that should be looked at again in the change order area. Dr. Downey said he thought it would be worthwhile for the task force to coordinate their time so they would be able to do this.

Board Request to Study Tax Assessment Laws and Procedures - Dr. Downey reported. On December 9, 1975, the Board adopted the motion of Supervisor Hahn to request the CAO, Auditor-Controller, Treasurer-Tax Collector, the Grand Jury, and the E & E Commission to study the tax assessment laws and procedures and make recommendations for property tax reform by January.

Rather than create a task force to address this problem, Dr. Downey said it might be worthwhile to couple this with the study of management and finances in Los Angeles County.

It was the opinion of the members that there was a relationship between the two, since an analysis of the problems in New York could not be done without analyzing assessment procedures. However, they questioned adding an additional part to a study that already had such an unfeasible deadline.

Dr. Downey explained that in the time allotted, the commission would only be able to come up with a preliminary report in January.

Consolidation of the Bailiff Functions of the Sheriff-Marshal - Dr. Downey reported that the State and Local Government Committee of the Chamber of Commerce had prepared a report on the subject which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The report recommends that the Chamber of Commerce support legislation which would enable the Board of Supervisors to consolidate the offices and functions of the Marshal and Sheriff Departments. The basis of the recommendation is that it is a costly and wasteful duplication of services to maintain the same function in both departments. In essence, the report is endorsing and supporting the E & E Commission findings in its 1967 report.

Mr. Roche said there was one exception. In 1967 the E & E Commission advocated consolidating under the Sheriff. This year the Board of Supervisors voted to advocate legislation which would permit the Board of Supervisors to consolidate either way.

On Dr. Schmidt's suggestion, the members agreed that the E & E Commission should reiterate its position on this subject when the Board considers the report.

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Mr. Roche added that when the bill came up before the Assembly Committee last year, the E & E Commission (EEC) took the position that regardless of which way the consolidation went, each County should have the authority to make its own decision. The bill was tabled at that time, but Assemblyman Paul Priola got a vote from the Assembly Committee to take it up again in January. When this legislation comes up again, the Chamber of Commerce is dedicated towards proposing to the Board of Supervisors that they strongly support this legislation.

Task Force on Management and Finances - Leo Majich, Chairman, gave the progress report as follows: What has happened in New York can happen here. The question is whether it has already begun to happen. The staff has accumulated a great deal of material, and by the first meeting of the task force they will have an outline of the various areas to be studied.

Study on Filling Vacant Elective Offices - Dr. Downey announced that Robert Ruchti had appeared on Channel 2 and had given the task force rebuttal to that station's editorial on Filling Vacant Elective Offices in Los Angeles County.

Staff Report on Completed Commission Reports and Pending Board Requests Since 1970 - (Attached) Burke Roche summarized the report. Since the Charter Study in 1970, the commission has submitted 26 reports to the Board. With only a few exceptions, the Board approved the recommendations.

As of December 10, there were 13 pending Board requests for studies. There is some duplication in the requests as No. 3 requests a study of all the commissions and committees in the County, and No. 7 is a request to expedite the study of advisory commissions which relate to the Department of Health Services. Eight studies have been completed on administrative and advisory commissions, and two studies have been completed on health related commissions.

On No. 9, Study of the Commission Structure in the Department of Public Social Services, a task force has been appointed for the continuation of the study, and it will begin operating as soon as the staff can develop some information.

No. 13, request to analyze assessment laws and procedures, will be considered as part of the study on management and finances, which has top priority as voted by the commission at the last meeting.

Paramedic Commission Ordinance - Mr. Roche reported that the new ordinance for the Paramedic Commission had been prepared and had its first reading at yesterday's meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The Board made some changes in the membership of the commission. The EEC had recommended five physicians, one lawyer, one educator, one nurse, and two public members. The Board wanted

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more public members on the commission, so the lawyer and the educator were replaced by one public member and one hospital administrator.

He said that the County Counsel did an excellent job on the ordinance, but they added a new clause which has only been used once before - in the recently established Commission on the Status of Women. The clause allows the Board to remove any member of the commission at any time, without cause.

There was considerable discussion regarding this clause. Dr. Schmidt suggested that the EEC direct a letter to the Board and express its concern about the effective operation of commissions and committees and the possibility that this clause could affect the independence and effectiveness of advisory groups.

Dr. Ellner moved that the letter be written to the Board; seconded by Gloria Starr and passed unanimously.

Business License Commission - John Campbell reported. As Dr. Downey reported at the last meeting, the President of the Business License Commission sent a letter to Supervisor Schabarum requesting that their stipend be raised from \$50 per meeting to the original \$100. She also complained about the workload of the commission and requested that the allotted number of meetings be increased.

Mr. Campbell has attended several of their meetings, has talked to the Tax Collector and the County Counsel who work with the commission. Right now there is not much evidence their workload has increased that much. However, he plans to investigate further and talk to some of the new commission members who are professional people and are therefore losing income each day they spend working on County business. He said there were other areas to be looked into and more information to gather before the task force meets.

Public Administrator-Public Guardian Commission - Anne Collins, EEC nominee on the commission, said that she was impressed with what the department head is doing in getting the operation completely computerized. She is not ready to make a detailed report today, but she will report at next month's meeting.

Dr. Downey wished everyone a happy holiday and adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.