

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

JANUARY 28, 1976

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

Members Present:

Catherine Burke
Anne Collins
Mario DiGiovanni
Carolyn Ellner
Douglas Ferguson
Milton Gordon
Richard Gunther
Mary Jane Kidd
Leo Majich
Warren Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Gloria Starr
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Robert Downey
Gus Anaya
George Bodle
John Byork
Jerry Epstein
Jesse Robinson
Robert Ruchti
Larkin Teasley

In the absence of Robert Downey, who was called out of town, Mary Jane Kidd chaired the meeting. She called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and asked Milton Gordon to introduce his guest, Maureen Kindel.

Mr. Gordon reported that four or five months ago Mayor Bradley discussed setting up a task force to study the possibility of consolidating some of the City and County services. He asked Mr. Gordon to co-chair the committee with Maureen Kindel. She has been in Los Angeles for five years, is a member of the Board of Governors of the Music Center, member of the Board of the Metropolitan YMCA, trustee at the UCLA Foundation, and author of the report made by the Mayor's advisory committee on the operation of the Greek Theater. He asked her to come to the meeting today so the members could meet her and she could meet them. Her presentation will be to let the E & E Commission know what the task force is doing on the city level and also to effect a liaison between City and County to make the work of the task force more effective. He said it was his pleasure to introduce Maureen Kindel to the commission.

Summary of Maureen Kindel's Presentation - The Mayor's Task Force for the Consolidation of City/County Services consists of 20 people much like the members of the E & E Commission. Approximately six of the members are County residents.

The task force has been given a broad mandate from the Mayor to examine the services rendered to the citizens by the City and County of Los Angeles, to identify areas of duplication and to make recommendations, if possible, on how the services which overlap might be consolidated. They have identified the procedures necessary to achieve consolidation and have adopted criteria to be

E & E COMMISSION MINUTES

January 28, 1976

Page 2

borne in mind in selecting specific services. They have chosen to move ahead in the paramedic emergency services and in consumer affairs. They feel the New York crisis has created an environment for change.

They operate without purse or sword but have just received news that five CORO fellows may be working with the task force. They are hoping this will come forth as they do not have an independent staff. They have been getting help from the offices of the Mayor and the CAO. She said she would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Gunther asked if it were possible to get some kind of consent in principle from the Supervisors so that when the report comes out it won't be looked at as something to which the County cannot relate. She answered that the task force would like to explore that. After appointment of the task force, the Mayor notified the Supervisors of its existence, but there has been no formal recognition by the Supervisors. If this would come about, it would have a very salutary effect upon their work.

Mrs. Kidd thanked Ms. Kindel and invited her to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Ray Zeman Retirement - Mrs. Kidd announced that Ray Zeman, County Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times, was retiring, and on behalf of the commission she offered him congratulations and wished him luck. Other members complimented Mr. Zeman on his very factual reporting.

Mr. Roche introduced the other press people at the meeting: Rick Orlov, Copley News Service; Joyce Peterson, City News Service; and Gus Stewart, Los Angeles Daily Journal.

Task Force on Management and Finances - Leo Majich, Chairman, reported. The first task force report was mailed to everyone January 16. It was a progress report to let the members and the Board of Supervisors know where the task force is and what it intends to do. At the last meeting they drafted a schedule, which includes the areas they intend to look at, and they hope to come up with a report on each of them. The County of Los Angeles is going to be living with these problems, because it is obvious to everyone that you can't continue to tax and continue to provide services without some limit.

Report on Proposed Charter Amendments - Burke Roche reported. At the Tuesday Board meeting, Supervisor Schabarum proposed three charter amendments: (1) delete the prevailing wage clause from the County Charter, (2) remove department heads and chief deputies from Civil Service, and (3) allow the County to contract with private firms for services.

These issues are very close to the E & E Commission (EEC). They were studied for the report on the County Charter in 1970 and in the report on Civil Service and collective bargaining in 1973.

E & E COMMISSION MINUTES

January 28, 1976

Page 3

Although Supervisor Schabarum was persuaded to withdraw his proposals until the Board receives the report and recommendations of the Public Commission on County Government, it was not until after a vote had been taken on the deletion of the prevailing wage clause. The vote was 3-2 against the proposal. In 1972, when the EEC made the same proposal, it was defeated by a 5-0 vote, although Supervisor Schabarum has traditionally endorsed the deletion.

The EEC recommended in its 1970 charter study that department heads and chief deputies be removed from Civil Service status. However, the recommendation included a number of safeguards to insure that the spoils system would not immediately return to County government. Allowing department heads and chief deputies to be dismissed without due process, except to the courts, would be an open invitation to a political system. This commission has gone on record of being in favor of this proposal, but only if the proper safeguards are included. Also, the EEC proposal in 1970 was made concurrently with the proposal for a strong County executive. It is up to the members today to take whatever action they wish in regard to this particular issue.

The third proposal - contracting with private firms for County services - was defeated by the voters in 1974. The unions campaigned strongly against it. The task force is just beginning to study this issue and the staff is gathering material for it.

Mrs. Kidd suggested that some action was indicated on the proposal regarding department heads and chief deputies. She asked Mr. Roche to read the commission's previous comments on this issue. Mr. Roche read the pertinent excerpts from the commission's previous reports, including the list of safeguards for the department heads and chief deputies.

Mrs. Kidd said that some time ago the commission discussed the subject of the recurrent issues and problems which seemed to keep coming up at Board meetings. It was suggested then that whenever this happened regarding a subject that the EEC had previously studied, the commission should direct a letter to the Board and remind the Supervisors that the subject had been studied and recommendations submitted to the Board. A review of the report might provide additional information to them.

Dr. Ellner moved that Mrs. Kidd's suggestion be implemented regarding the charter proposal to remove department heads and chief deputies from Civil Service status. The motion was seconded by Leo Majich and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Anne Collins, seconded by Leo Majich, and carried unanimously, that the commission send a letter to Channel 2 and thank that station for its public service in presenting the program "Los Angeles County: Your Money and Your Life."

Task Force on Commissions and Committees - Mary Jane Kidd, Chairman, reported. As reported to the members at the last meeting, the President of the Business License Commission sent a letter to Supervisor Schabarum outlining her dislikes of the EEC recommendations which had been implemented. She listed four items of displeasure (1) restriction of the commission's review of license renewals, (2) reduction of the stipend, (3) removal of their responsibility of inspecting private schools, and (4) unhappiness with the assignment of duties to an executive director. In other words, she was asking that the commissions be returned to its original status.

After investigation by the staff, the task force decision was to stand pat on its original recommendations. It also recommended that the commission should attempt to improve its efficiency and should employ an executive director as soon as possible to assume responsibilities which are now taking up the time of the commissioners.

Task Force on Construction Projects - Jerry Epstein, Chairman, was not present. Burke Roche reported that the members heard the presentation of the report on the Facilities Department, given by Leo Majich, at the last meeting. The report was approved by the commission, and copies were delivered to the Supervisors' offices. The EEC usually makes a formal presentation of its reports to the Board. However, it was the opinion of Jerry Epstein that no formal presentation was necessary in this case. He intended today to request the members to vote to consider the matter concluded as far as any current action. The commission approved this decision.

Consideration of Larkin Teasley's Request - Mr. Roche reported that Larkin Teasley has had a change in the meeting dates of his firm and has requested that the EEC consider changing the regular meeting date from the fourth Wednesday in the month to either the first or the third Wednesday. The members present voted to change the date to the first Wednesday. Mrs. Kidd requested that the staff poll the absent members before making the date official.

Consolidation of the Bailiff Functions of the Sheriff-Marshal - Mr. Roche reported that Paul Priola's bill was heard by the Local Government Committee on the first day of the session, January 6. The bill was to allow counties to make their own choice whether to consolidate the Marshal's office under the Sheriff's Civil Division or the Sheriff's Civil Division under the Marshal's office. The bill was defeated 5-3. As far as he understands it, the whole issue is now dead. There was a bill put in the Senate to require counties to consolidate under the Marshal's office, but he has not heard what happened to that bill. He said that he would assume its chances would not be great.

Executive Secretary's Report - Mr. Roche reported that the appointments to the Paramedic Commission are progressing per EEC recommendations. It has a quorum of appointees and had a meeting scheduled for today. However, a complication set in, and the meeting was cancelled.

E & E COMMISSION MINUTES

January 28, 1976

Page 5

The Board of Supervisors is referring commission and committee requests for stipends to the EEC to be incorporated in the studies of commissions and committees. It has referred three requests - The Emergency Medical Care Committee, the Hospital Commission, and the Alcoholism Advisory Board. They are all requesting a \$50 stipend - the Emergency Medical Care Committee and the Alcoholism Advisory Board for each meeting, the Hospital Commission for each hospital inspection day.

The EEC staff met with some of the members of the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission at their request. They discussed their problem, which is typical of the problem with the commissions and committees. There is a duplication between the review responsibilities of this commission and the Mental Health Advisory Board. The staff explained the study priorities of the EEC, and said they could not spend a great deal of time on the problem, but they would report it to the task force and hope that it can be resolved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 11:05 a.m.