

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

August 27, 1975

Maurice Rene Chez
Chairman

Muriel Pfaelzer Bodek
Catherine Graeffe Burke
John D. Byork
Rudolph A. Cervantes
Anne S. Collins
Dr. Robert J. Downey
Jerry Epstein
Theodore S. Flier
Milton G. Gordon
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Joseph A. Lederman
Leo A. Majich
William S. Mortensen
Robert Ruchti, II
Earl J. Sachs
Dr. Warren H. Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Burke Roche
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Maurice Chez, Chairman
Catherine Burke
John Byork
Anne Collins
Robert Downey
Carolyn Ellner
Jerry Epstein
Milton Gordon
Joe Lederman
Jesse Robinson
Warren Schmidt
George Shellenberger
Larkin Teasley
Bryan Walker

Members Absent:

Gus Anaya
Muriel Bodek
Theodore Flier
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Leo Majich
Robert Ruchti

Mr. Chez called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m. He said he would delay the election for chairperson to give late members a little more time. He asked Robert Downey to report.

Presentation of the Paramedic Report - Dr. Downey reported that on the day the report was presented to the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Hahn said that he had just returned from his vacation and hadn't had time to read it. He asked that discussion and consideration be postponed for two weeks. Mr. Chez asked that Dr. Downey be given 10 minutes to present the report, even though it would not be considered for two weeks. The Board granted the request, and he summarized the report and the recommendations.

Dr. Downey reported that the Director of Health Services, L. A. Witherill, disagreed with the recommendation that the Paramedic Committee would no longer advise him on certification and training of paramedics. The Hospital Council believed there should be a hospital administrator on the proposed Paramedic Commission, and the Fire Department wanted a representative from their sector to be a member. Mr. Hufford, Chief Administrative Officer, sent a letter to the Board requesting that the report be referred to his office for resolution of the problems and report back to the Board. The Board continued the report for two weeks.

Since that time, Supervisor Hahn has had heart surgery, and it is expected that the hearing will be delayed another two or three weeks.

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A letter to the Board of Supervisors was distributed, and Dr. Downey read the letter which had been prepared by the staff in consultation with the task force. The letter pointed out that the task force still believes the proposed composition of the commission is sound and workable, but the Hospital Council made a very valid argument for representation on the commission. Therefore, the task force would not object to replacing one of the public members on the commission with a hospital administrator of a paramedic base station hospital.

Regarding Mr. Witherill's argument, the task force believes there are strong pro and con arguments on this issue, but rather than delay the establishment of the new commission, it would not object if the Board of Supervisors added the responsibility of recommending certification of paramedics to the Director of Health Services.

Milton Gordon asked if there were two or three public members on the proposed commission. Dr. Downey answered that there were two public members, but counting the lawyer, the educator, and the nurse, there were really five members who would be representing the public - four of them unaffiliated.

Moved by George Shellenberger that the letter be approved and sent to the Board of Supervisors; seconded by John Byork and passed unanimously.

Progress Report on the Filling of Vacant Elective Offices - John Campbell reported that the Board of Supervisors had adopted Supervisor Edelman's motion requesting the E & E Commission to conduct this study. He has talked to the Registrar-Recorder and the County Counsel and has developed some initial information on the feasibility of several different plans. They are working up cost data for the task force, which should be ready to meet in a week or so.

Burke Roche added that the Registrar-Recorder reported that special elections are notorious for the small turnout. If less than 50% of the voters turned out for a special election, it is possible that less than 20% of the voters could elect the new officer. The present system certainly has problems, and the vacancy in the District Attorney's office reflects the seriousness of this.

Presentation of Plaque - Mr. Chez said that, since this was his last meeting with the E & E Commission, he requested that the Board of Supervisors allow him time at yesterday's meeting of the Board to say a few words of farewell. He wanted the opportunity to thank the staff of the E & E Commission, the County employees he had become acquainted with during the years, and the news media for its kindness and accuracy in reporting about the commission. The Board of Supervisors had presented him with a beautiful plaque, which he had brought with him to show to the commission. He thanked his fellow commissioners, and said he was a little sad to see Joe Lederman and Ted Flier leave the commission.

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Assembly Bill to Consolidate the Sheriff-Marshal Bailiff Functions - Mr. Roche reported that the bill had previously been presented to the Assembly Judiciary Committee but died for lack of a second. The author of the bill, Paul Priola, was able to get it transferred to the Local Government Committee, where it was heard August 19. Supervisor Schabarum went to Sacramento to testify and was very effective in presenting the case of letting the counties decide for themselves which way they wanted to consolidate. The final vote was 3 or 4 in support and 4 or 5 against. Mr. Roche said that was 4 more votes than ever before received on this issue. Paul Priola's plan now is to secure enough signatures to get another hearing in January, and the prognosis is that he will get another hearing.

Grand Jury Appearance - Mr. Roche reported that he and Mr. Chez had been invited to meet with the Grand Jury to discuss the activities of the E & E Commission. He and Mr. Chez were both very impressed with the questions they were asked. Mrs. Margaret Carr is the first woman to serve as Foreman of the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury submitted a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors requesting that they support the bill which would eliminate election day as a holiday for government workers. The Board of Supervisors agreed to support the bill with two provisos, (1) delay it until June, 1976, to allow negotiation of the fringe benefit package for County employees; (2) allow time for the Registrar-Recorder to make other arrangements for the County employees and the space he uses on election day.

Public Commission on County Government - Burke Roche reported that the Bar Association had secured a \$178,000 grant from the Haynes Foundation for a study of the structure and operation of County government. The commission members were selected by the County Bar Association. The staff has issued the first working paper which is a very detailed description of the workings of County government. There are no conclusions and no recommendations in this report. Other reports are being developed, and they expect to make recommendations by the end of the year. He has requested extra copies and asked which commission members would be interested in reading it. The following members asked for copies: Catie Burke, Anne Collins, Robert Downey, Carolyn Ellner, Jerry Epstein, Joe Lederman, and Warren Schmidt.

Committee on Emergency Medical Care - Burke Roche reported that the newly appointed committee would be meeting for the first time on September 4 to get organized. Only one of the former members was appointed to the new committee.

Election of Commission Chairperson - Seventeen votes were cast for chairperson - 14 by members present at the meeting and 3 absentee ballots. Robert Downey received 9 votes; Mary Jane Kidd received 7; there was one abstention.

Jerry Epstein moved that Robert Downey be declared chairperson by unanimous ballot. Motion was seconded by Bryan Walker and passed unanimously.

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Mr. Chez turned the chair over to Dr. Downey. Dr. Downey thanked the members and announced that everyone would meet at the Music Center after the meeting to honor Mr. Chez. He adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.