
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1993
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

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

Chairperson Buerk called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Gunther Buerk, Chair
George Ackerman
Fred Balderrama
Judith Brennan
Marshall Chuang
David Farrar
John A. FitzRandolph
Louise Frankel
Roman Padilla
Daniel Shapiro
Betty Trotter
Efrem Zimbalist, III

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Jack Drown
Jon Fuhrman
Dr. Mike Gornez
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough
Chun Lee
Robert Philibosian

Randy Stockwell
Dr. Alfred Freitag

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT :

Richards Barger

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

JUNE 2, 1993 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Buerk asked if there were any amendments or objections to the June 2nd Minutes.

Mr. Staniforth stated that Commissioner Kimbrough notified the office prior to the June Meeting of her absence and requested that her absence be counted as an excused absence.

Chairperson Buerk asked if there were any other amendments. Hearing none, he put forth a motion.

Resolved that: the Commission approve the minutes as amended. The motion was moved, seconded, and ordered.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES STUDY STATUS

Commissioner Barger was absent. Mr. Staniforth reported that he had sent a letter to UCLA after repeated unsuccessful attempts to contact Ms. Newton by telephone following their first initial meeting last spring.

Commissioner Zimbalist had suggested that a meeting between himself, the Vice Chairman of Times/Mirror, Mr. Staniforth, and the CAO, Mr. Harry Hufford to discuss the study. At that point, it could be determined if the CAO was interested in seeing the study completed. If there was no interest, the study would be dropped.

PENSION FOLLOW-ON STATUS

Chairperson Buerk stated that the Board of Supervisors passed a motion on July 6 asking the Commission to report on the results of the Pension and Risk Management Studies for budget deliberations that will begin on July 12th. The Commission will attempt to develop a preliminary report or a final report on those two studies.

Commissioner Freitag stated that the Pension Task Force had not met since the last Commission Meeting.

Mr. Staniforth had reviewed the second draft from Corroon and had passed on more information from the CAO's Office to Corroon. W.F. Corroon felt that they would have a document ready by the following week. The Commission has to decide what format the report will take, such as a cover report with recommendations. If it is necessary to prepare a cover report the Commission will not be able to respond to the Board during budget deliberations. It is possible that an interim report could be developed for the budget deliberations.

LIABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY STATUS

Mr. Staniforth has reviewed the third draft of the Risk Management report. It is not as far along as the Pension report. It is not known whether a final copy of this report can be delivered to the Task Force by the following week.

Mr. Staniforth had planned to meet with the consultants later in the week after the Commission meeting to discuss the draft.

Commissioner Shapiro expressed concern that the Commissioners were waiting too long for work from the consultants.

Commissioner Padilla felt it would aid the task forces if they could be given all of the different versions of the draft documents.

Chairperson Buerk felt that the procedures for reviewing the various draft documents should be revised and that the task force members be given all versions of the documents as they are delivered by the consultants.

It was suggested that a deadline be set for Tuesday, the 13th of July, for delivery of the latest version of draft documents to the task forces.

Chairperson Buerk felt that the two task forces should meet followed by a full Commission meeting to discuss the Pension and Risk Management Studies.

Commissioner Zimbalist suggested that the consultants address the full Commission.

Chairperson Buerk called for a motion to hold another Commission Meeting.

Resolved that: The Commission will hold a meeting on Wednesday July 21, 1993 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the Pension and Risk Management Reports.

Motion was seconded, ordered, and approved.

PROPOSITION A\ CONTRACTING STATUS

Commissioner Trotter reported on the distribution of the report which was completed in June. At this time, the Board had yet to respond to any of the recommendations made in the report.

Commissioner Trotter mentioned a recommendation from the Public Access study concerning the use of scoreboards at Board Meetings. Staff has done some research into the different methods available and is developing a summary to send to the Board.

UNINCORPORATED AREAS BUDGETING TASK FORCE

Commissioner Gomez was absent. Mr. Staniforth reported that arrangements had been made with the Urban Research Service to conduct a study on unincorporated areas. The Task Force had formalized the project outline and will meet with Urban Research Service in a few weeks for a report on preliminary findings and describe the approaches they are employing.

Commissioner Brennan reported that the Executive Director had spent a lot of time developing drafts and conducting conference calls to develop a project outline. Commissioner Brennan felt that this study should be set aside to allow staff to concentrate on issues that require immediate action while the Urban Research Section is gathering information.

Chairperson Buerk felt that this was a good idea.

COUNTY BUDGET AND ECONOMIC GROWTH TASK FORCE

Commissioner Philibosian was absent. Mr. Staniforth stated after the Board letter was completed in May, the Task Force was planning to propose additional work.

Chairperson Buerk felt that the work of the Task Force was very important and that they should develop an agenda for its future work. and present it to the full Commission at the next monthly Commission meeting.

Commissioner Farrar offered to contact Commissioner Philibosian and set up a conference call meeting of the Task Force to develop an agenda.

V. PRESENTATION

The Meeting was moved and resumed in Room B-85 H of the Hahn Hall of Administration. Mr. Staniforth introduced Mr. Kenneth Hahn the County Assessor.

Mr. Hahn wanted to present the revenue side of the budget. He began talking about the budget for the Assessor's Office and how it will affect revenue collection.

Last year, the Assessor's Office sustained a \$10 million budget cut. This year, the Assessor's Office has received a proposed budget that cuts \$21 million from its budget.

It is anticipated that there will be a 2% increase in assessment roles. In the boom years, that figure was closer to 15%. A 2% increase translates into a \$28 million increase in revenue.

80% of the Assessor's budget goes to salaries and benefits. Employees will receive a 4% raise due to contractual obligations.

Mr. Hahn felt that the large cuts proposed by the County would be counter-productive to the County because the Assessor's Office is a revenue producing agency. Examples were cited where the County did not capitalize on some revenue collection because of the lack of manpower in the Assessor's Office. This situation will only be aggravated in the future.

Commissioner Farrar asked if the County was looking at innovative ways to reduce its overhead and still maintain its

level of operations. He suggested having some of the Assessor's staff contracted out, and developing a method of compensation based upon receiving one dollar for every ten dollars in revenue collected. Commissioner Farrar stressed that new methods of County operations must be explored to insure cost savings.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Staniforth presented the Commissioners with a Commissioner's Handbooks. The handbooks contained material for new Commissioners. In the future, when materials are distributed, they may be placed in the handbook for future reference.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

Dr. Waddell was absent. Commissioner Trotter reported that she had attended the Productivity Commission's Conference at Descanso Gardens and summarized what had been discussed by the various speakers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion and approval of the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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