

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CITIZENS ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE**

ROOM 139, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION/500 WEST TEMPLE/LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012/625-3611, Ext. 64605

M I N U T E S

FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 19, 1971
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 739

Robert Mitchell,
Chairman

Dr. John C. Bollens
Davis Brabant
John D. Byork
Maurice Rene Chez
Roc Cutri
Dixon R. Harwin
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan G. Loud
P.S. Magruder
Ivin Mazzei
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R.J. Munzer
Robert A. Olin
Louis Rogers
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Donelle Smith
Sam M. Soghomonian
William Torrence
Gus A. Walker

Burke Roche,
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
Dr. John C. Bollens
Davis Brabant
Maurice Rene Chez
Dixon R. Harwin
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan G. Loud
Irvin Mazzei
Ferdinand Mendenhall
R. J. Munzer
Louis Rogers
Sam Soghomonian
Gus Walker

Members Absent:

John Byork
Roc Cutri
P. S. Magruder
Robert Olin
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Donelle Smith
William Torrence

Mr. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. He said that the draft copies of the report "Consolidation of County Departments and Centralization of the Public Information Function" had been mailed to each committee member.

Mr. Roche explained that several changes had been made in the organization of the report, but that the content had not been changed. Copies of the new draft were distributed to committee members and the press.

The committee first reviewed the recommendation on the consolidation of health services. Mrs. Kidd had served as the E & E Committee's representative on the Health Services Planning Committee which had conducted a 17-month study leading to the recommendation to consolidate the County's three health service departments - Health, Mental Health and Hospitals.

Mr. Chez and Mr. Mazzei wanted to know why it would take until January, 1975, to complete the program.

Mr. Roche explained that this was a complete reorganization of the health services in the County. It involves four departments. (The County Veterinarian is now included in the consolidation.) It will first be tested in a pilot program that will last approximately a year. At the end of that time the plan will be extended to half the other regions by 1974 and extended to the other half by 1975.

Mrs. Kidd made the motion that the recommendation for consolidation of health services be adopted; seconded by Mr. Chez and passed unanimously.

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The committee next reviewed the section of the report on the consolidation of the Marshal-Sheriff bailiff and civil process functions. Mr. Roche said the purpose of the section was to advertise the fact that the State Legislature was preventing the County of Los Angeles from saving \$2 million annually. He said that the total budget of these two functions had gone from \$9 million to \$14 million in the last five years. The personnel has increased from 775 to 1008. However, the Legislature is preventing Los Angeles County and five other counties from doing what ten counties are already doing. The legislation to enable this consolidation has been blocked by the Municipal Court Judges Association and the Marshal's lobbies.

Mr. Mazzei said he felt this was discrimination, and he thought that the Board of Supervisors or some citizen or taxpayer group should try to institute a class suit against the State. He asked why the County should continue to go to the Legislature for a law that was good for some and not for others.

Mr. Roche said he would pursue this point with the County Counsel. He said this recommendation would be added to page 12 if the County Counsel gave a favorable answer.

The committee was in agreement that this matter should be kept on the agenda and more aggressive action be taken to make sure a bill will be introduced in the Legislature each year.

Mr. Soghomonian suggested the committee write to each assemblyman and senator and try to get a commitment from them.

Mr. Mazzei moved that the recommendations regarding the Sheriff-Marshal merger be approved and the additional suggestions noted. Seconded by Mr. Loud and carried unanimously.

Explaining the next section of the report on the consolidation of community action departments, Mr. Roche said that in the brief time allowed for this report, he had uncovered several problems regarding this particular grouping. He feels that the committee should recommend that the County not go ahead with this particular agency as proposed until the CAO has developed his agency plan more fully and has investigated other possible groupings in this area.

Mr. Mazzei moved adoption of the recommendations as they appear in Section IV of the report; seconded by Dr. Bollens and carried unanimously.

Mr. Roche said that Section V covered the centralization of the public information function. He said that in the brief time the committee had been given to prepare this report, it could not look at all the operations of these public information personnel dispersed among the departments. He said that on the surface it would seem to indicate that there would be considerable advantage in centralizing this function. Because of the specialized service and the unique position of the public information officer in some departments, it may be better that he remain in the department. With that one feature of caution,

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the CAO should conduct a study with the department heads to move toward centralization.

Mr. Mendenhall asked why the recommendation excluded elected officials. Mr. Roche said the Board Order excluded them, and in the several weeks allowed for this study, all the positions could not be looked at.

Mr. Mazzei said he believed it was wrong to exclude the departments headed by the elected officials. The taxpayers were paying for their public relations officers.

After more discussion, Mr. Soghomonian moved that the word "excluding" be changed to "including" so it would read "including the three departments headed by elected officials." Seconded by Mr. Mazzei.

Mrs. Kidd, speaking to the motion, said she thought that phrase should follow ". . .to review the operations of all departmental public information personnel, including the three departments headed by elected officials . . ."

Mr. Soghomonian agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mazzei said that the second to last paragraph on page 16 referred only to making more effective use of the personnel. He said he thought the idea of strengthening the function should also be included. Mr. Roche agreed, and there were no objections to the change.

Mr. Harwin said he had been incensed and angry that the Board of Supervisors had referred this matter to the committee. He said that in a budget of over \$2 billion, this committee had now spent an hour discussing a potential savings of perhaps \$100,000. He said there was an infinitude of problems in County government that the committee could better spend its time with. He had been reading Dr. Bollens' book on government reform, and it seemed to him that if the committee keeps hitting at gnats instead of getting at the real issues, it would just keep spinning its wheels.

Mr. Mitchell said the committee had made a major effort last year on the charter amendment, but the voters had turned it down.

Mr. Mazzei pointed out that the original charge to the committee by the Board of Supervisors gave the committee the authority to study whatever area it chose.

Dr. Bollens said he would like to support Mr. Harwin. He suggested that added to this report should be the recommendation that the committee feels this area of County government is a minor one in comparison with many of the matters which could be considered - not only by the Board but by the committee.

Mr. Roche said that one of the major recommendations in the charter study was the agency concept. All five supervisors now favor this substantial reorganization of the County which the committee has advocated. He felt there could

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be tremendous savings if the County followed the kind of plan designed to initiate the kind of review explained on page 19 of the report. This was to analyze all the functions in the County to determine if the County should be performing them and to establish long-range objectives.

Mr. Munzer and Mr. Mazzei were excused at 11:05 a.m.

Mr. Roche asked if there were any suggestions for change to the last section of the report, Organization Planning in County Government. Section VI was adopted without change.

Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.