

**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 COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 1973  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Rm. 864

Members Present:

Maurice Chez, Chairman  
George E. Bodle  
John Byork  
Jerry Epstein  
Laurence Greiner  
Harlan Loud  
Robert Olin  
George Shellenberger  
William Torrence

Members Absent:

Dr. John Bollens  
James Cunningham  
Roc Cutri  
Milton Gordon  
Dixon Harwin  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
Joe Lederman  
Leo Majich  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
Robert Mitchell

Robert Mitchell,  
Chairman

Dr. John C. Bollens  
Davis Brabant  
John D. Byork  
Maurice Rene Chez  
James J. Cunningham  
Roc Cutri  
Jerry Epstein  
Leo D. Epstein  
Milton G. Gordon  
Dixon R. Harwin  
Mrs. Ray Kidd  
Joseph A. Lederman  
Harlan G. Loud  
Irvin Mazzei  
Ferdinand Mendenhall  
R. J. Munzer  
Robert A. Olin  
George Shellenberger  
William Torrence  
Gus A. Walker

Burke Roche,  
Executive Secretary

Mr. Chez called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. He introduced new member Laurence T. Greiner, Foreman, 1972 Grand Jury. Mr. Greiner was with B. G. Goodrich Company, Akron, Ohio, for 39 years. At the time of his retirement he was Assistant to the Corporate President.

Richard P. Hancsak, staff specialist, was welcomed to the committee and introduced by Mr. Chez. Mr. Hancsak is from Hughes Aircraft Company where he held the position of management systems specialist in the corporate office. He will be working on the Civil Service-Labor Relations study.

Mr. Chez said that he was sorry that the meeting was called on such short notice, but it was necessary to take immediate action. He explained that Supervisor Ward had brought in a motion at the last Board meeting regarding an audit function in the County. Since the E & E Commission had been mentioned in the motion, Mr. Chez felt that an answer was necessary. A copy of the motion and the commission's answer had been mailed to each member. The commission's letter to the Board of Supervisors was read, and Mr. Chez asked for comments.

Mr. Torrence moved that the commission ratify the letter as written and presented to the Board of Supervisors; seconded by Robert Olin and passed unanimously.

Supervisor Hayes' proposal to appoint two men to supervise the new consolidated department was explained by Mr. Chez. He stated that no one on the commission had any prior knowledge of the proposal nor that the two appointees were to be Dixon Harwin and a Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Roche said that Supervisor Hayes had spoken from notes when he made the proposal at yesterday's meeting, and he had advised Mr. Chez and Mr. Roche that he was preparing an official statement this morning and would send a copy to them as soon as it was completed. He also told them that he had not meant for these to be permanent appointments, rather they would be interim until the required legislation was passed.

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Mr. Chez reviewed the commission's recommendation to the Board which resulted in the establishment of the new consolidated department. The commission had recommended that the country be scoured to find the best man available to head this department, which would manage all of the construction in the County. The recommendations had been adopted by the Board and the County was waiting for the required legislation.

(Supervisor Hayes' official proposal was delivered to the meeting at this time, and Mr. Chez read it to the members.)

Mr. Chez said that Supervisor Hahn had seconded the proposal, but Supervisor Ward had asked that it be held in abeyance for two weeks while he had time to study it further. The other supervisors agreed.

Mr. Chez said that he asked Supervisor Hayes if he intended that Mr. Harwin remain as a member of the commission while serving as a watchdog at \$35,000 a year? Mr. Hayes had answered that he had made it clear to Mr. Harwin that he would be expected to resign.

All members commented on the proposal. Jerry Epstein spoke in favor, saying that the County needs someone who is a professional in the building field and who knows what he is doing. They need this kind of supervision now because it may be a number of months before the legislation is passed.

Mr. Chez said that Art Will had sent him a copy of his report to the Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the department referred to as FAMS, (Facilities Acquisition and Management System). He read the report which outlined the progress of the establishment of the department. All facilities project managers had been hired, staffmen had been assigned from other County departments, projects and administrators had been identified and listed, and a committee comprised of the CAO, Department of Real Estate Management and the County Engineer is overseeing the development of operational and organizational guidelines for this organization.

Mr. Roche said that just before leaving the office for the meeting he received a phone call advising him that Assembly Bill 1092, the legislation for FAMS, has been introduced into the legislative processes and carries an urgency clause. It is due for the first hearings on May 5, and it must be out of the Assembly by June 15.

Some comments by the other members regarding the hiring of the two supervisors for FAMS were: Since they have waited this long for the legislation, they can be patient for another two months. The interim appointees may conceivably have some prior right to the permanent appointment. Art Will's report on the progress of the implementation of the department indicates that the only thing remaining is to hire the top man. The department needs an administrator, not a watchdog. The Construction Projects Task Force is already acting as watchdog at no expense. Why should the County pay \$70,000 a year for two more?

Mr. Epstein said that he thought when he gave his report on the progress of the special committee to resolve the problems of the Criminal Courts Building it would tie in with his argument in support of hiring the two men. Mr. Chez asked him to give his report.

Mr. Epstein reported that the Criminal Courts Building had been occupied since last August, and the deficiencies were still not corrected. He said he could see no progress from meeting to meeting, and he made this clear at the March 16th meeting. At that meeting the architect had agreed there was a sound transmission problem and that he had found a way to correct it, but the County would have to pay the cost. Mr. Epstein disagreed with this.

Mr. Epstein also listed the problems which still existed with the elevators. He said that he could not understand why these things hadn't been corrected by now. The regular Friday meetings had been cancelled each week since the March 16th meeting.

He said the point he was making was that the County needs professional people who can handle these problems, and he does not feel that the County has anyone who is a professional in this field. He warned against making the mistake of building a new organization and then appointing the top executive at the last minute. He would want to hire his own people and not be saddled with a staff he may feel is incompetent.

The other members did not feel that the problems of the Criminal Courts Building could be solved by hiring these two men. They suggested that perhaps Mr. Roche and Mr. Epstein could go to Mr. Will and find out why more progress wasn't being made in correcting the deficiencies in the building.

Mr. Roche said that he had talked to Mr. Hufford, in the CAO's office, and had told him that the Construction Projects Task Force expects to call a meeting to find out what progress has been made on resolving the problems. They will also want the latest information on the implementation of FAMS. He said that he feels this is the proper way to get answers and information on these very pertinent questions that Mr. Epstein is raising.

Mr. Roche said that he also wanted to point out that never in the history of the commission has it ever attempted to tell the Board how to vote on a motion presented by one of the supervisors. It was not done with Supervisor Ward's motion regarding the audit function. The commission stated its position but did not recommend that the Board vote for or against the motion.

Mr. Chez said that he was also of the same opinion, and unless there were additional comments or motions, the subject would be closed.

Mr. Chez asked Mr. Roche to report on the task force assignments. Mr. Roche said that Mr. Hancsak would be working on the Civil Service-Labor Relations study. He was studying all of the available literature and doing some interviewing. He had just attended a conference in Los Angeles of the American Society of Public Administration, and he will be going to Sacramento to attend

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another symposium on Labor Relations in Government. As soon as the background material is prepared for the task force, a meeting will be called.

Mr. Roche reported that he was doing the same thing for the Charter Study Task Force. He is preparing the pros and cons of the elected versus the appointed chief executive, the agency concept, and other charter issues.

Regarding the agency concept, he said that the Board was now considering the establishment of the third consolidated department in the County. It would include all of the community services departments. The proposal had been continued for one week to give the Board members more time for review.

Mr. Chez said that he had found there had to be a lot of staff work done before the task force could go ahead. He asked the members to be patient until the staff could gather the needed material.

Mr. Epstein asked what was happening on the consolidation of the Bailiff and Civil Process Functions in the Sheriff and Marshal Departments.

Mr. Roche answered that, after the Grand Jury recommendation to the Board last year, the Board had included the consolidation recommendation in the legislative package for this year. Miss Kagawa, from the CAO's office who was in charge of following the legislation, was present and was asked if she knew the status of the legislation.

Miss Kagawa said that she believes the County now has a sponsor for the bill in Sacramento. She said that the bill in its current form proposed consolidation of the process serving function under the Sheriff but would still leave a separate Marshal's Department with responsibility for the Municipal Court Bailiffs.

There being no further business, Mr. Chez adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.