

**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, August 6, 1969
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Hall of Administration, Room 864

Robert Mitchell,
Chairman
Raymond Arbuthnot
Dr. John C. Bollens
Davis Brabant
Max Candiotty
Maurice Rene Chez
Dr. Warren S. Jones
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan G. Loud
P. S. Magruder
Kiyoshi Maruyama
Irvin Mazzei
L. E. McKee
Ferdinand Mendenhall
Louis Rogers
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Benjamin Erick Smith
William Torrence
Gus A. Walker
Burke Roche,
Executive Secretary

Members Present:

Robert Mitchell, Chairman
Raymond Arbuthnot
Davis Brabant
John Byork
Maurice Chez
Mrs. Ray Kidd
Harlan Loud
P. S. Magruder
Irvin Mazzei
L. E. McKee
Ferdinand Mendenhall
Louis Rogers
George Shellenberger
Mrs. Benjamin Erick Smith
William Torrence
Gus Walker

Members Absent:

Dr. John Bollens
Dr. Warren S. Jones
Kiyoshi Maruyama

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mitchell at 9:35 a.m. He introduced Mr. John Byork who was appointed to the committee by Supervisor Hahn and replaces Max Candiotty.

Mr. Mitchell read a letter from the Clerk of the Board advising the committee of the motion of Supervisor Dorn which was adopted by the Board of Supervisors at the July 29 meeting. The motion requested the committee to review the County Charter and submit to the Board any recommendations for amendments in ample time for the Board to review the suggestions for possible inclusion on the ballot for the November, 1970, general election.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he felt the committee should accept the assignment but should make it clear that it didn't intend to go into the entire Charter. He felt that only those amendments necessary in a review of the executive functions of the County, including the supervisors, should be studied. The committee is not prepared to debate these issues at the present time. He asked Mr. Roche for his comments.

Mr. Roche thought a letter to the Board should state the issues the committee thinks are paramount and the ones it should concentrate on. Also the committee should bring in civic leaders and professionals in the field to get their views. After hearing these people, the committee can form its conclusions. He felt it was important to air the issues publicly so the voters could have a chance to study the problems.

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Mr. Magruder stated that if the committee voted to handle this request, it should let the Board know that it is only going into specific fields, not let them think it will review the whole Charter.

Motion by Mr. Shellenberger, seconded by Mr. Loud that the committee accept the study.

Mr. Byork asked that the motion be re-stated. Mr. Roche was asked to re-state it. Mr. Roche said that the motion should state that the Executive Secretary be instructed to prepare a letter, for review by the committee, responding to the Board's request to study the County Charter. The letter will define the key issues the committee will concentrate on; namely, expansion of the Board of Supervisors and organization of the executive function within the County.

Mr. Magruder asked that when the letter is written, the purpose of the committee is emphasized as relating to economy and efficiency in the County.

Mr. Mazzei made an amendment to the motion that the committee look into the County Charter for all provisions tied to the economy and efficiency of the County. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Arbuthnot, Chairman of the Fire Services Consolidation Sub-Committee, to report on the progress of his study. Other members of the sub-committee are: Mr. Chez, Mr. Loud, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Torrence.

Mr. Arbuthnot emphasized first of all that every city had a right to provide its own fire services if it wished to. The committee's study, however, indicated that in many cases cities which now have their own fire department would achieve substantial savings if they joined the consolidated fire district. There are now 45 separate fire departments in Los Angeles County, including the two large departments operated by Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County. Many of the departments in the other 43 cities have no more than one or two stations and 30 to 40 employees. The result is grossly uneconomical and inefficient fire services.

In some cases engine companies travel one or two miles to a fire which is within a few blocks of a station in an adjoining city. Confusion and delays occur in reporting fires because callers don't know what jurisdiction the fire is in and the emergency telephone operators are often in the same quandary. The present mutual aid system is inadequate. It has limited economical benefits and results in large departments subsidizing small departments. Mr. Arbuthnot then asked Mr. Torrence if he wished to comment.

Mr. Torrence pointed out that preliminary cost analysis indicated total savings of \$4 million for those cities which would benefit by joining the consolidated fire district.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Arbuthnot and Mr. Torrence for their report and called for questions.

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Mr. Mazzei asked if the sub-committee would be interviewing fire personnel in the various cities. Mr. Arbuthnot answered that they would.

Mr. Byork thought the committee should consider the question of having a common emergency number. Mr. Arbuthnot said they were working on it and thought it would be helpful.

Mr. Brabant added that when a common emergency number was mentioned, most people thought of a local emergency. He asked if it wouldn't be adaptable to a national emergency. Mr. Roche said he thought that was an extremely important point.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Magruder, Chairman of the Capital Projects Sub-Committee, to report on the progress of his study. Other members of the sub-committee are: Mr. Brabant, Mr. Chez, Mrs. Kidd, Mr. McKee, Mr. Shellenberger and Mr. Walker.

Mr. Magruder reported that his sub-committee has found that a key issue is the cost of alternative means of handling the need for facilities. Renting property has become more and more a means of covering this need. The sub-committee has talked to the County people, Mr. Will who has charge of rentals and Mr. Schoeppe who handles the capital investments. He asked them to put in writing the information they had given verbally.

Mr. Magruder then reported on the information the sub-committee had received in writing. This touched on the various ways of financing, the voters record on bond issues, the County's bonded indebtedness and similar data.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Mr. Magruder for his report and asked for comments from the committee members.

Mr. Chez thought the report was excellent. He thought one point stood out and that was the need to educate the public so they would understand that voting down the general obligation bonds would cost the taxpayer more money because the project would be financed in some other way.

Mr. Brabant thought he saw the problem in a different light. Perhaps the public did know what they were voting for, but it was the only way they could protest the rising cost of government. He thought perhaps the project itself should be submitted to the voters, not just the method of financing it.

Mrs. Kidd observed that one of the important problems was debt management. There appeared to be a need for one person to be in charge of the overall management of the County's debts.

Mr. Walker agreed with Mr. Chez that the voter should be educated about the problems in financing. He believed this was the biggest problem.

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Mr. Mitchell then called on Mrs. Kidd to report, as the Economy and Efficiency Committee's representative, on the progress of the Health Services Planning Committee. She said that the meeting scheduled for Monday had been cancelled. The committee had lost its chairman, Dr. Roger Egeberg, to the Health and Welfare Department and that had held things up a bit. The committee had been charged with reviewing the present structure of health services delivered by the County. This involves seven County departments: Health, Mental Health, Probation, Sheriff, Hospitals, Public Social Services and Adoptions. The committee has talked to these departments and to the consumers. Grass roots people came in and talked to them regarding health services biggest problem-- fragmentation. The committee hopes to pull these services all together so a person doesn't have to run all over the County to get service. The thought now is that the County acquire the lot at Slauson and Main which is about four acres. Supervisor Hahn has introduced a motion to introduce a pilot program which will be called "Primary Health Care." From there the patient would be referred, if necessary, for diagnosis in a hospital, and from there to specialists in a particular area.

She further stated that the committee has come up with about four different plans for re-organization of the health services and will have to decide which to endorse. The report should be completed in mid-September.

Mr. Mitchell then called on Louis Rogers to present his proposal for a new study. Mr. Rogers stated that the Mechanical Services Department in the County had a maintenance and repair facility on Mission Blvd. which has been there about 40 years. The conditions are very archaic. There are from 50 to 90 different types of vehicles occupying about an acre of the grounds. He asked one employee how long it took to repair a vehicle. He was told it took from 4 weeks to 9 months. He pointed out that the Road Department and the Flood Control District also have maintenance and repair facilities and he questions whether they should not be consolidated under the Mechanical Department.

Mr. Brabant suggested that the vehicles might be sent out to private agencies for repair. The police department does this, and they are given preferential treatment from a private agency.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Rogers to look into this, get more information and bring it to the committee. The committee could then make a judgement. He appointed Mr. McKee and Mr. Loud to work with Mr. Rogers in developing more information on the repair of vehicles and the Mechanical Department.

Mr. Roche reported that the Architectural Evaluation Board had been appointed, and will hold its first meeting next week. He has been asked to attend to explain the committee's views.

Mr. Roche also reported that the Grand Jury had assigned the contract auditor to review the Sheriff-Marshal merger problem. It has invited him to a panel discussion on September 4th, where the Marshal, Sheriff and other interested people will discuss the problem.

Mr. Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.