

## **Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee**

***Draft* MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2006**  
**3:00 pm**

Board of Supervisors Conference Room  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Attendees: Members: Commissioner Jan Beautz  
Commissioner Mike Keogh  
Commissioner Ellen Pirie  
Commission Alternate Andy Schiffrin

Others: Ellen Aldridge, RTC Consultant  
Susan Mauriello, CAO  
Dania Torres Wong, County Personnel  
Ligi Leong, CAO's Office  
Les White, SCMTD General Manager

RTC Staff: Pat Dellin, RTC staff  
Tegan Speiser, RTC staff  
Luis Mendez, RTC staff

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by Committee Chair Schiffrin. Refreshments were served in light of this being Ms. Dellin's final Committee meeting before retiring.

1. Introductions – Self-introductions were made.
2. Additions/Changes to Agenda – None.
3. Oral Communications – None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was unanimously approved (Pirie/Keogh) with Commissioner Keogh abstaining from approval of the February 9<sup>th</sup> and February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

4. Approve Minutes of February 9, 2006 meeting.
5. Approve Minutes of February 13, 2006 meeting.
6. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Amendment of the FY05-06 Budget to Incorporate the Updated Financial Plan for the Rail Acquisition Project.
7. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Compliance with AB 1234 Regarding Ethics Training.

**REGULAR AGENDA****8. RTC Executive Director Transition – Consider Operational, Administrative and Personnel Issues – Oral Report**

Commissioners discussed the Executive Director's proposal to "ride out" her accrued vacation and administrative leave time between her last day of work on April 7<sup>th</sup> to her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday in August, when she would retire. The CAO indicated that this was inconsistent with County policy, but that proposals are occasionally approved when the County wants to encourage an employee to leave County employment, or in cases of medical leaves. This was the case with the previous RTC Executive Director.

Commissioners acknowledged the accomplishments of the current Executive Director and discussed various options that would allow them to approve her proposal. The CAO indicated that, if the RTC were to approve the Executive Director's proposal, the best implementation option from the County's perspective would be to create a limited term Executive Director position for Ms. Dellin.

The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee decided on a vote of 3 to 1 (moved by Commissioner Pirie and seconded by Commissioner Beautz, with Commissioner Schiffrin voting no) to recommend to the RTC at its March 16<sup>th</sup> Transportation Policy Workshop meeting that the RTC create a limited term Executive Director position for Ms. Dellin to ride out her leave time until her 55<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**9. Accept Staff Recommendations on Establishing the RTC as an Autonomous Governmental Entity**

Ms. Speiser presented the report on autonomy highlighting the proposed new timeline for autonomy and updated work plan; autonomy-related expenditures to date; contracting with the Auditor's Office; the status of workers compensation and CalPERS retirement applications; progress being made toward policy development; and upcoming recommendations about the organization chart and job classifications.

The Committee discussed workers compensation and other insurance issues and staff agreed further discussion of these issues should occur at the next meeting, with the County's Risk Manager being invited to the meeting.

In reviewing the work plan, Commissioner Schiffrin noted that RTC staff should first see if employee benefits could be procured through the County post-autonomy instead of setting up new benefits, and the CAO indicated that it would be possible in cases where they are allowed to do so. RTC staff said they would follow up with County staff and report back to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee at a future meeting.

The staff recommendations regarding establishing the RTC as an autonomous governmental entity were unanimously approved (Pirie/Beautz) to: accept the staff report on the RTC Autonomy Project, including an updated work plan and timeline and a new recommended target date for separation; recommend that the Commission approve a new target date for separation of October 1, 2006; receive an oral report from staff on updated information; and direct staff to return to a future Budget and Administration/ Personnel Committee with a comprehensive update on on-going costs when quotations for CalPERS or insurance

coverages are available; with the additional recommendation that staff bring the updated autonomy work plan and timeline to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee on a monthly basis.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Next Meeting Times – The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee will meet at 3pm on these Thursdays:

- ▶ Thursday, April 13, CAO Conference Room, 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz
- ▶ Thursday, May 11, CAO Conference Room, 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz

Respectfully submitted,

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Tegan Speiser, Staff

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