

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTYWIDE OVERSIGHT BOARD**

January 26, 2021, 8:35 a.m. via ZOOM WEBINAR

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange Countywide Oversight Board was called to order at 8:35 a.m. on January 26, 2021 via Zoom Webinar at a publicly available room at the Orange County Auditor-Controller’s office, 1770 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, California by Chairman Brian Probolsky, presiding officer. He announced that the Board is adhering to the Governor’s regulations and orders in conducting today’s meeting remotely and mentioned the measures taken by the Oversight Board to remain accessible to the public.

Present:	7	Chairman:	Brian Probolsky
		Vice Chairman:	Steve Jones
		Board Member:	Chris Gaarder
		Board Member:	Charles Barfield
		Board Member:	Dean West
		Board Member:	Steve Franks (joined at 8:41 a.m.)
		Board Member:	Phil Yarbrough
Absent:	0	Board Member:	N/A

Also present were Kathy Tavoularis, Staff and Clerk of the Board; Patrick “Kit” Bobko, Legal Counsel; Zeshaan Younus, Consultant; and Amanda Hernandez, Consultant’s Administrative Support.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Barfield led the group in Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 Board Meeting was made by Vice Chairman Jones, seconded by Board Member Gaarder. Chairman Probolsky called for a vote count from Board Clerk Tavoularis.

YES – Probolsky, Jones, Gaarder, Barfield, West, Yarborough
NO – N/A
N/A - Franks

Motion carried.

4. ADOPT RESOLUTIONS REGARDING REQUESTS BY SUCCESSOR AGENCIES FOR ANNUAL RECOGNIZED OBLIGATION PAYMENT SCHEDULE (ROPS) AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

- a. Anaheim
- b. Buena Park
- c. County of Orange
- d. Costa Mesa
- e. Cypress
- f. Fullerton
- g. Huntington Beach
- h. La Habra
- i. Placentia
- j. San Juan Capistrano
- k. Santa Ana
- l. Westminster

Chairman Probolsky offered Board Members the opportunity to single out particular Successor Agencies for discussion. Board Member West requested to break out the County of Orange and City of Buena Park, in reverse order. With the understanding of breaking out said Successor Agencies, Board Member Barfield moved to vote on the remaining Successor Agencies minus the County of Orange and City of Buena Park, seconded by Board Member Gaarder. Chairman Probolsky called for a vote count from Board Clerk Tavoularis.

YES – Probolsky, Jones, Gaarder, Barfield, West, Franks, Yarborough

NO – N/A

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4c County of Orange

Board Member West moved that the first Successor Agency reduction the Board calls for should be to the County of Orange to reduce their administrative budget from \$250,000 to \$150,000. Board Member Yarborough seconded. Board Member West recognized the County's efforts to be responsible and reorganize.

Chairman Probolsky requested comments from the County of Orange and Jeff Kirkpatrick, Orange County Successor Agency Administrative Manager, was called to respond. Kirkpatrick noted that the County is following state law. Additionally, he mentioned the uncertainty of the times and noted that the administrative budget allows for the County to prepare for unforeseen things around the corner.

Board Member Franks asked a clarifying question, noting that he sees \$144,000 as the budget for staff time with the remaining budget earmarked as contingency. Board Member Franks also asked for clarity that operations would not be curtailed under the current scope

of services if indeed a reduction was called for. Kirkpatrick confirmed both points from Board Member Franks.

Board Member Yarbrough, upon further clarification from the County, holds to his second on the motion to approve the reduction. Board Member Barfield also supports the winding down of the Successor Agency.

Board Member Gaarder asks if there is a ratcheting system for issues in Successor Agencies requesting more money once their budget lowers, if there is indeed a major unforeseen circumstance to account for. Legal Counsel Bobko responds that he needs to check on the ability for Successor Agencies to request money once a reduction has occurred.

Board Member Gaarder would prefer allowing the County to maintain a margin of budget and introduced an approved budget with a 25% contingency, lowering the County's budget from \$250,000 to instead \$180,000.

Board Member West amended his motion to reflect the updated \$180,000 budget. Board Member Yarbrough reaffirmed his second. Chairman Probolsky called for a vote count from Board Clerk Tavoularis.

YES – Probolsky, Jones, Gaarder, Barfield, West, Franks, Yarborough

NO – N/A

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4b Buena Park

Board Member West moved to approve the Buena Park ROPS for a \$150,000 administrative budget, Board Member Yarbrough seconded.

Chairman Probolsky requested comments from the City of Buena Park and Christopher Cardinale, City Attorney, was called to respond. Cardinale mentioned his belief from a legal standpoint that the Board does not have the ability to adjust administrative budgets mid-year. He requested grace from the Board as this reduction would have a staffing impact and may hinder the service needs of the Successor Agency. Also representing Buena Park, Aaron France, City Manager, mentioned that all administrative expenses from last year were used and he believes will continue to require every dollar. France noted that Buena Park remains committed to winding down properties amidst ongoing legal issues.

Vice Chairman Jones and Board Member Gaarder believe the allocation for Buena Park is appropriate and provides the necessary breathing room to wind down.

Board Member West amended his motion to now approve the ROPS as presented, including the administrative budget. Board Member Yarbrough upholds his second. Chairman Probolsky called for a vote count from Board Clerk Tavoularis.

YES – Probolsky, Jones, Gaarder, Barfield, West, Franks, Yarborough
NO – N/A

Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Board Clerk Tavoularis reported there are no public comments.

STAFF COMMENTS:

- Board Clerk Tavoularis noted the next Oversight Board Meeting as Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - with a TBD location
- Board Clerk Tavoularis noted the Regular Meeting for the Amended ROPS will be September 21, 2021
- Board Clerk Tavoularis reminded Board Members that Form 700s are due on April 1

BOARD COMMENTS:

Chairman Probolsky thanked the board for their service and thoughtful deliberation on these matters. Board Member Gaarder commented that today will be his last Board Meeting. The Board of Supervisors will be working to source a successor for Board Member Gaarder. Various Board Members thanked Board Member Gaarder for his service.

CLOSED SESSION:

N/A.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Probolsky adjourned the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

BRIAN PROBOLSKY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTYWIDE OVERSIGHT BOARD

KATHY TAVOULARIS
CLERK OF THE BOARD

DATE