

# Allegheny County Council

436 Grant Street  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

## Committee on Budget and Finance

*Michael Finnerty, Chair;  
Nick Futules,  
Amanda Green Hawkins,  
Heather Heidelbaugh, Terri Klein,  
Bob Macey,  
Sue Means,  
John Palmiere and  
Jan Rea  
-Members*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:02.*

**Members Present:** 9 - Finnerty, Barbara Danko, Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey, Sue Means, John Palmiere, Jan Rea and Nick Futules

**Members Absent:** 0

### Invited Guests:

**William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee**

**David Donahoe- Executive Director, Allegheny Regional Asset District Board**

*Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.*

*Dr. Hacker was present from the Health Department.*

*Mr. Donahoe was present from the Regional Asset District.*

*Ms. Celestino, Mr. Cox and Ms. Soroka were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.*

*Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.*

## II. Roll Call

**Members Present:** 5 - Finnerty, Barbara Danko, Heather Heidelbaugh, Sue Means and Jan Rea

**Members Absent:** 4 - Amanda Green Hawkins, Bob Macey, John Palmiere and Nick Futules

## III. Approval of Minutes

[8782-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on January 28, 2015  
**Passed**

## IV. Agenda Items

### Resolutions

[8774-15](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2015 (Submission #02-15).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Szymanski summarized its provisions.*

*The Chair noted that the Members had all received a summary of the two grants at issue, and opened the floor to questions.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Danko, Dr. Hacker discussed accreditation activities that have taken place to date, and noted that she hopes that the process is completed by year end.*

*Ms. Means and Dr. Hacker discussed the mechanics of the assessment and accreditation process.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Dr. Hacker noted that accreditation may render it easier to receive grant funding, insofar as evaluation criteria for a number of grants mirror the accreditation criteria.*

*Ms. Means and Dr. Hacker discussed community health improvement planning activities undertaken by the Department as a means of setting priorities for improving regional health.*

*In response to questions from Ms. Heidelbaugh, Dr. Hacker described her personal feelings relating to the need to mitigate disparate health quality in various areas of the County, the need to address behavioral issues that have an impact on chronic disease, and the need to explore efficiencies in the provision of medical care. In addition, Dr. Hacker discussed the importance of vaccination as a prevention methodology, as well as the Health Department's actions in response to the recent spike in measles cases nationwide.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Danko, Dr. Hacker noted that the Health Department does not bear responsibility for mental health concerns, but that in her opinion, it is important for the Department to work closely with DHS in order to develop models for integrated mental and public health care, with a focus on prevention, to the extent that it is practicable.*

**Affirmatively Recommended**

Enactment No: 6-15-RE

## **V. Discussion Topic : Allegheny Regional Asset District Board**

*At the request of the Chair, Mr. Donohoe gave a brief overview of the role and function of the Regional Asset District, discussing the status of the District as a unit of local government, the purposes for which the District was created, the legal authority under which the District was created, the District's funding sources and distribution of its grant funds, its audit practices, the distinction between annual grantees and contractual assets, and the overall impact of the District on regional assets and tax structure.*

*The Chair expressed a sense that the District is beneficial to the County and the region, and thanked Mr. Donohoe and all of the District board members for their efforts.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Danko, Mr. Donohoe discussed purchases of cars and other motor vehicles, noting that County residents do pay the supplemental sales and use tax, even if they buy the vehicle outside of the County, because the use of the vehicle in question can be determined via registration documents. Mr. Donohoe also noted that there was no significant migration of vehicle sales establishments to locations outside of the County after the supplemental sales and use tax was imposed. In response to another question from Ms. Danko, Mr. Donohoe described the process through which supplemental sales and use tax revenues are distributed to the various municipalities that receive them.*

*Ms. Means and Mr. Donohoe discussed the District's procedural rules as they relate to obtaining the necessary votes to authorize funding and the process by which applications for funding are tendered to and evaluated by the District board.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Rea, Mr. Donohoe discussed the District board's decision to fund public transit within the County.*

*Ms. Heidelbaugh and Mr. Donohoe discussed the process through which his successor would be chosen by the District board.*

*In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Donohoe discussed the District's funding commitment to the sports and convention center debt service, noting that it amounts to \$13.4 million per year.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Danko, Mr. Donohoe discussed growth in the supplemental sales and use tax over time and potential future issues in tracking and collecting the tax.*

**VI. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:02.*