

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

John DeFazio - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call To Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager

Summary: *Invited guests in attendance: Mr. Flynn and Mr. Uber*

Recognized attendees: Jack Cambest, Council's Legal Advisor; Jeff Letwin, Airport Authority Solicitor

Council staff in attendance: John Mascio, Jennifer Liptak, Jared Barker, and Joe Catanese

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Council Member Burn, Council Member Macey, Council Member Cleary, Council Member Drozd, Council Member Finnerty, Council Member Fitzgerald, Council Member Futules, Council Member Gastgeb, Council Member Martoni, Council Member McCullough, Council Member Robinson, and Council Member DeFazio
Absent: Council Member Ellenbogen, and Council Member Rea

III. Approval of Minutes

3821-08 Motion to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2008 Appointment Review Committee Meeting.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 9 - Burn, Macey, Drozd, Finnerty, Fitzgerald, Gastgeb, Martoni, Robinson and Chair DeFazio
Abstain: 3 - Cleary, Futules and McCullough
Absent: 2 - Ellenbogen and Rea

IV. Agenda Items**Proposed Appointments**

3708-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Ronald J. Beinlich to serve as a member to the Agriculture Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Beinlich provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Robinson, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 11 - Burn, Macey, Cleary, Drozd, Finnerty, Fitzgerald, Futules, Gastgeb, Martoni, Robinson and Chair DeFazio
Abstain: 1 - McCullough
Absent: 2 - Ellenbogen and Rea

3709-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Roy Kraynyk to serve as a member to the Agriculture Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Kraynyk provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Cleary, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3710-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Thomas W. Headley to serve as a member to the Agriculture Land Preservation Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Headley provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Martoni, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3711-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dennis J. Simon to serve as a member to the Authority for the Improvements in Municipalities for a term to expire on December 31, 2012.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Simon provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Martoni, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3713-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Thelma Spells to serve as a member to the Authority for the Improvements in Municipalities for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Spells said that she did wish to continue serving and asked that her name be withdrawn from consideration. Mr. Uber said that Mr. Onorato will send an official memorandum of withdrawal of her name.*

Action: **Withdrawn**

3715-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Rick E. Pierchalski to serve as a member to the Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Peirchalski provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3718-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Daniel J. Griffin to serve as a member to the Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Griffin provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Gastgeb, seconded by McCullough, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3719-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dusty Elias Kirk to serve as a member to the Regional Asset District Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Kirk provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during her tenure. She also informed the committee of her future plans and goals should she be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Fitzgerald, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3720-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Glenn Mahone to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Airport Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2012.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Mahone provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board. He referenced a document that he distributed to the committee which describes some of the achievements and activities of the board.*

Ms. Cleary asked Mr. Mahone what his vision of the future is for the airport. Mr. Mahone said that rests with the utilization of the facilities. He said that the challenge is to optimize the asset.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Mahone if he foresees the airport being used as a hub for major carriers. Mr. Mahone said that they have engaged national consultants to assist them with that issue. He said that he does not think it will ever be the same as it was but that Pittsburgh Airport is going to be discovered at some point.

Mr. Finnerty asked Mr. Mahone if the airport will bring back international travel. Mr. Mahone said that they have extensive data on that issue and that the region does not have the economic base to support that. He said they are still trying even though consultants say it is a long shot.

Mr. McCullough distributed a copy of the airport's last audit report for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. He asked Mr. Mahone if he thought that Council had oversight responsibilities over the Airport Authority. Mr. Mahone said not statutorily.

Mr. McCullough said that he requested various documents from Mr. Mahone but did not receive them. He asked Mr. Mahone why he did not receive them. Mr. Mahone said that his solicitor sent a letter to President Fitzgerald and Council Member DeFazio, Chairman of the Appointment Review Committee, saying that this request should come from them as it pertains to this committee meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald said that all requests relative to committee meetings must go through the chair.

Mr. McCullough expressed concern about the county receiving payment from gaming revenues in satisfaction of a debt that was not recognized in the airports audited financial statements.

Mr. Mahone explained that the sum in question was not characterized as debt by the Airport Authority but rather as a public investment.

Mr. McCullough asked Mr. Mahone how they came to this decision. The Chair allowed Mr. Jeff Letwin, the Airport Authority's solicitor, to approach the committee table. Mr. Letwin provided the committee with an explanation as to how they came to this decision.

Mr. McCullough said that he would submit a letter to Mr. Mahone through the committee asking these questions.

The Chair cautioned Mr. McCullough that his line of questioning was not consistent with the purpose of this committee meeting. Mr. Burn said that the purpose of this portion of the meeting is limited to the appointment of Mr. Mahone and that debate should be limited to that.

Mr. Cambest said that the committee should be very careful to avoid making allegations against Mr. Mahone or the Authority. He said that this is not an investigative meeting of Council. He said it is to either approve or disapprove an appointment. He said that if any Member of Council feels that there are violations then they should request to convene an investigative committee meeting.

Mr. Mahone said that any information that Council wants will be delivered in a timely fashion in writing.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

Votes: Yes: 9 - Burn, Macey, Cleary, Finnerty, Fitzgerald, Futules, Martoni, Robinson and Chair DeFazio
No: 3 - Drozd, Gastgeb and McCullough
Absent: 2 - Ellenbogen and Rea

3721-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dawn M. Price to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2012.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Price provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during her tenure. She also informed the committee of her future plans and goals should she be reappointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3722-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Dr. Walter Smith Jr. to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2010.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. Smith provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be reappointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3723-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Paul Quarantillo to serve as a member of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a term to expire on May 23, 2012.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Quarantillo provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be reappointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Macey, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3724-08 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Timothy H. Johnson to serve as a member of the Retirement Board of Allegheny County for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Johnson provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

3725-08 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Mark Jones to serve as a member of the following Authorities: Allegheny County Industrial Development Authority, Allegheny County Hospital Development Authority, Allegheny Higher Education Building Authority and the Residential Finance Authority for a term to expire on December 31, 2012.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Jones provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and described some of the activities and accomplishments of the board during his tenure. He also informed the committee of his future plans and goals should he be re appointed to the board.*

Action: **A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Cleary, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM*