

# **Allegheny County Council**

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## **Meeting Minutes - Approved**

**Thursday, April 17, 2014**

**4:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

### **Committee on Budget and Finance**

*Michael Finnerty, Chair*

*Members:*

*Barbara Daly Danko*

*Amanda Green Hawkins*

*Heather Heidelbaugh*

*Bob Macey*

*Sue Means*

*Nicholas Futules, John Palmiere*

*Jan Rea*

**I. Call to Order**

*The meeting was called to order at 4 PM.*

**Invited Guests:**

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

**Warren Finkel - County Budget and Finance Director**

**II. Roll Call**

**Council Members Present:** 2 - Finnerty and Macey

**Council Members Absent:** 7 - Daly Danko, Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh, Martoni, Means, Palmiere and Rea

**IV. Agenda Items****Discussion Topic****Assessment Appeals Update presented by the County Manager**

*The Chair invited Mr. McKain and Mr. Finkel to the table to present on the status of assessment appeals. Mr. McKain handed out a graph entitled "History of Tax Refunds" 1996-2013.*

*Mr. McKain emphasized that this was a "multi-year" process of gathering data.*

*Mr. Macey made a comment regarding working with COGs and Attorneys on tax rebates that he believed that we were losing large amounts of tax revenue by people by mischaracterizing properties for purposes of rebates and banks not pursuing tax liens.*

*Mr. Finkel stated that it takes a long period of time to process all of the information from a reassessment to give an accurate picture of revenue gained.*

*Mr. Finkel stated that one difference in the previous assessment was that there were no informal appeals which was provided in the more recent reassessment.*

*Mr. McKain stated that this recent reassessment was more efficient than the previous reassessment. Mr. McKain passed out an additional document which reflected a projection of future tax refunds on unsettled assessment appeals.*

*Ms. Griser joined came to the table and discussed the statistics reflected within the unsettled appeals document with Mr. McKain and Mr. Finkel.*

*Mr. McKain stated that their recommendation was at 7 million at this point. Ms. Griser stated that the Controller will review that projection.*

*Ms. Griser stated that one of the better improvements from this reassessment was getting the information out to the taxpayers prior to the new assessed values going out.*

**V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.*