

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, February 25, 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 4PM.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA- County Manager or Designee

Mary C. Soroka-Director, Office of Budget and Finance or Designee

Jim Thompson- Deputy Director of Environmental Health, Allegheny County Health Department

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

Mr. Thompson was present from the Health Department.

Ms. Soroka, Ms. Celestino and Mr. Cox 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: 4 - Finnerty, Barbara Danko, Heather Heidelbaugh and Bob Macey

Members Absent: 3 - Amanda Green Hawkins, John Palmiere and Jan Rea

Members Phone: 2 - Sue Means and Nick Futules

III. Approval of Minutes

[8807-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on February 11, 2015
Passed

IV. Agenda Items**Discussion Topic: Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee**

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the role and function of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, noting that the Committee has no administrative or regulatory authority, but that it does provide recommendations regarding uses of funds in the County's clean air fund, as well as advice to the Board of Health relating to proposed air quality regulations and air pollution issues that are brought to its attention. Mr. Thompson also highlighted the process for creation and approval of proposed air quality regulations, and described recent and anticipated changes to the County's air quality regulations.

In response to questions from the Chair and Mr. Macey, Mr. Thompson provided additional detail regarding the possibility of revising prohibitions on committee membership, potentially to allow for more industry representation on the committee.

In response to a question from Mr. Macey, Mr. Thompson discussed the committee's tendency to recommend funding for projects in areas that have higher rates of certain health issues, such as asthma.

In response to questions from Ms. Heidelbaugh, Mr. Thompson provided additional

information relating to an informational meeting that the committee held regarding air pollution issues near the Shenango Coke Works plant, offered to provide minutes of the meeting, and described the current ownership of Shenango.

Ms. Heidelbaugh and Mr. Thompson discussed the qualifications of current committee member Dan Bricmont.

In response to questions from Ms. Danko, Mr. Thompson noted that the current clean air fund balance is about \$11 million, with \$4 million in projects currently outstanding, and another \$3 million anticipated for approval in 2015, and provided additional detail regarding the committee's advisory role in authorizing expenditures from the clean air fund.

In response to questions from the Chair, Mr. Thompson described current efforts to mitigate diesel emissions in the County, most notably within the City of Pittsburgh, highlighting efforts to retrofit older diesel engines that are more prone to generating particulate pollution.

Mr. Macey and Mr. Thompson discussed the impact of the anti-idling regulations upon diesel emissions.

Ms. Heidelbaugh and Mr. Thompson discussed the process through which individuals may be recommended for appointment to the committee.

In response to questions from Ms. Means, Mr. Thompson described baseline testing and monitoring activities that have been undertaken to date in and around Deer Lakes Park, noting that the Department has roughly three months of water and air data as of now, and that this data is posted on the internet.

In response to a question from Ms. Danko, Mr. Thompson placed the County's air quality in historical perspective, noting that it is as good as it has ever been, but one of the most significant issues is that older industrial equipment and/or techniques contribute quite a bit to air pollution.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Thompson discussed diesel idling issues that arise in railroad yards, and mitigation efforts that have been undertaken recently.

Ms. Heidelbaugh, Ms. Danko and Mr. Thompson discussed the current regulations relating to qualifications for advisory committee membership, as well as the proposed change in the terms of office for appointed members.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.