

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Mike Finnerty, Chair

Members; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, John Palmiere

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

Invited Guests:

The Honorable Chelsa Wagner, Allegheny County Controller
William D. McKain, CPA, Allegheny County Manager or Designee
Mary Soroka, Allegheny County Budget Director or Designee

Controller Wagner was present.

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

Ms. Soroka was present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Deputy Controller Weise, Mr. Rudolph and Mr. Shepherd were present from the Office of the Controller.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 6 - Finnerty, Sam DeMarco, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 3 - Nick Futules, Bob Macey and Chuck Martoni

Members 1 - Cindy Kirk

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes**IV. Agenda Items****Discussion Topic - 2015 CAFR Presented by Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner**

At the request of the Chair, Controller Wagner gave an overview of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, noting that total revenue was approximately \$8 million higher for 2015 than for 2014 and that expenditures were \$34 million higher in 2015 than in 2014, with the largest increases in debt service, parks, facilities and administrative services. Controller Wagner indicated that the unassigned fund balance had increased by approximately \$3 million to \$41 million from 2014- 2015.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Controller Wagner, Ms. Weise and Mr. McKain described the general structure of the Highmark healthcare credit.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Controller Wagner noted that the unassigned fund balance represents 5.7% of the general revenues.

Controller Wagner noted that the County's general obligation debt is at its lowest level since 2011, but that debt service payments are up by approximately \$10 million. Controller Wagner discussed the transportation fund, noting that poured drink and car rental tax revenues were up by roughly \$5 million and that, with the operating subsidy remaining at \$29 million, this is created a \$16 million balance in the transportation fund.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Controller Wagner clarified some confusion that had been created by recent news coverage of the Port Authority's budget and the transit fund.

Controller Wagner provided a brief overview of the County's new OpenGov system, which makes fiscal data available through the County's website. Ms. Weise noted that the data currently available only relates to the operating budget. Mr. Rudolph highlighted the manner in which the data is presented on the website, and discussed the ability to export data once it is found. Mr. Rudolph noted that data is also available regarding the vendors with whom the County does business, the payments that the County makes, and County employee counts.

Mr. Shepherd discussed the new open contracts data reporting system, noting that all contracts executed since January 2, 2015 are currently available and can be viewed as pdf documents.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Controller Wagner discussed the extent of the Controller's audit authority and recent litigation and pending legislation on the issue.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55.