

立法會
Legislative Council

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(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 1st meeting
held in the Chamber of Legislative Council Building
on Tuesday, 12 October 2004, at 2:30 pm**

Members present:

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP (Chairman)
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Margaret NG
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, JP
Hon Jasper TSANG Yok-sing, GBS, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon LI Kwok-ying, MH
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man

Members absent:

Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, JP
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT Senior Council Secretary (1)9

Staff in attendance:

Ms Pauline NG	Assistant Secretary General 1
Mrs Mary TANG	Senior Assistant Secretary (1)2
Ms Alice AU	Senior Assistant Secretary (1)5
Ms Caris CHAN	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Mr Frankie WOO	Legislative Assistant (1)2

Action

Ir Dr Raymond HO, the member who had the highest precedence among members of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC), chaired the election of the Chairman. He advised that the purpose of the meeting was to elect the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the PWSC for the 2004-05 session. He also informed members that Mr LEE Cheuk-yan had written to the Secretariat advising that he withdrew membership from the Subcommittee.

Election of Chairman

2. Ir Dr Raymond HO invited nominations for the chairmanship. Ir Dr Raymond HO was nominated by Mr Abraham SHEK. The nomination was seconded by Mr CHAN Kam-lam. As Ir Dr HO was nominated for the chairmanship, Ms Margaret NG, the member present who had the highest precedence among the members not nominated for the office, presided over the election.

3. Ir Dr Raymond HO accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Ms Margaret NG declared that Ir Dr Raymond HO was elected Chairman of the PWSC for the 2004-05 session.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. Ir Dr Raymond HO took the chair and called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming was nominated by Mr CHAN Kam-lam. The nomination was seconded by Mr Abraham SHEK. Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming accepted the nomination. The Chairman asked if there were other nominations. Mr Alan LEONG was nominated by Mr Albert CHAN. The nomination was seconded by Ms Margaret NG. Mr Alan LEONG accepted the nomination. The Chairman announced a vote by secret ballot. Of the members present, 8 voted for Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming and 10 voted for Mr Alan LEONG. The Chairman declared that Mr Alan LEONG was elected Deputy Chairman of the PWSC for the 2004-05 session.

Any other business

Meeting time of PWSC meetings

5. The Chairman said that in the past session, as requested by members at the beginning of the session, he had strived to end the meetings by the normal ending time of 12:45 pm except when there was a request that the meeting be extended in order to finish some urgent items. In those exceptional occasions, he would always consult members present, and only with the support of a majority of the members would he make the decision to extend the meetings beyond 12:45 pm. The Chairman further said that in order to better manage the meeting time, he suggested that in future meetings, individual members would be allowed to ask two questions initially and to ask follow-up questions once during the first round of questions. He explained that in the past, he had allowed individual members to ask several follow-up questions during the first round of questions and he found this arrangement not entirely satisfactory. He invited members' comments on his suggested new arrangement.

6. While appreciating the Chairman's wish to better manage the meeting time, Ms Margaret NG stressed that as public expenditure was involved, it would be most important to ensure that all public works items were thoroughly considered by PWSC before they were put to vote. She considered that there should not be unnecessary restriction on the number of questions to be asked by individual members.

7. Sharing Ms NG's concern about the importance of thorough examination of funding proposals, the Chairman explained that his suggestion was not to restrict the number of questions to be asked by members as they were at liberty to ask a second round or further rounds of questions, and he would always consult members if they had further questions to ask before putting an item to vote. His suggested arrangement was aimed at allowing a fair and adequate opportunity for each member to ask questions and hence thorough deliberation on funding proposals. As members did not have any other comments, the Chairman said that he would put the suggested arrangement into practice. He added that subject to members' views, the arrangement could be reviewed in due course.

Schedule of meetings for the 2004-05 session

8. The Chairman said that he would liaise with the Clerk on the schedule of PWSC meetings for the 2004-05 session, which would be forwarded to members after the meeting. As presently scheduled, the next PWSC meeting would be held on Wednesday, 27 October 2004, at 10:45 am.

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 2:45 pm.