

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, November 12, 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 4:0

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee

Warren Finkel-Director, Office of Budget and Finance or Designee

Charles Moffatt- Superintendent, County Police, or Designee

Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.-District Attorney, or Designee

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

Mr. Finkel, Mr. Casciato, Mr. Schepis, Ms. Celestino and Ms. Soroka were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Ms. Paulous, Mr. Seyko and Ms. Collins were present from the Courts.

Ms. Spangler was present from the Office of the District Attorney.

Superintendent Moffatt and Lt. Sherman were present from the County Police.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 7 - Finnerty, Barbara Danko, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey, Sue Means, Jan Rea and Nick Futules

Members Absent: 1 - Amanda Green Hawkins

Members Phone: 1 - John Palmiere

III. Approval of Minutes

[8601-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on November 6, 2014
Passed

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[8599-14](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2014 (Submission #16-14).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Szymanski provided an overview of its provisions.

In response to questions from Ms. Danko and Ms. Means, Mr. Seyko described potential locations for the new day reporting center and some of the mechanics of its operations, and the services provided.

Mr. Macey expressed a hope that the location of the new center was selected with public transit accessibility in mind, and Mr. Seyko noted that the favored location is on a bus line.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Seyko discussed the grant duration.

In response to a question from Ms. Rea, Mr. Seyko discussed the other centers that are in operation, noting that they would involve significant travel for individuals in the Mon Valley.

Affirmatively Recommended

Enactment No: 33-14-RE

Discussion Topics:

*** Grants & Special Accounts, Operating, and Capital Budget Draft Resolutions for the 2015 Budget**

*** Electronic Surveillance Methodologies**

The Chair expressed a desire to discuss electronic surveillance methodologies first, and invited Superintendent Moffatt and Ms. Spangler to the table.

The Chair noted that a discussion relating to a grant previously reviewed by the Committee gave rise to a number of questions relating to electronic surveillance and evidence gathering.

*Ms. Danko provided a brief overview of the questions that had been asked, and Ms. Spangler noted that the contemplated activities involve evidence that has been gathered in the form of a cell phone or a GPS device via owner permission or search warrant, and not through surreptitious or warrantless "snooping." Ms. Spangler also discussed *Riley v. California*, recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, and delineating the U.S. Constitutional limits on searches to gather data from cell phones. Ms. Spangler noted that the requirements for evidence gathering would not change, and the searches would continue as they currently are; the difference would be equipment and training.*

Ms. Heidelbaugh thanked Ms. Spangler and Superintendent Moffatt for their attendance, and described the reasons for her questions at the prior session.

Ms. Heidelbaugh and Ms. Spangler discussed the mechanics of obtaining a search warrant and technological issues that may exist with regard to searching cell phones under the appropriate circumstances.

In the absence of additional questions, the Chair expressed a desire to move on to discuss the draft operating, capital and grant & special account budgets.

The Chair began with a brief discussion of the draft operating budget resolution, noting the anticipated revenue, highlighting a side by side comparison of the draft resolution and the Executive's recommended budget, and expressing a willingness to consider changes proposed by the Members.

Ms. Rea asked about the reasons for a couple of the suggested variations between the recommended budget and the draft resolution.

Ms. Means asked a question relating to fringe benefit recovery, and Mr. Szymanski and Mr. Finkel provided additional detail regarding the recovery line item.

Ms. Danko noted that the proposed budget for the Office of County Council is lower than the maximum allowed by the Home Rule Charter, and that extra funding could be made available if the Council decided that it would like to undertake additional activities.

Ms. Rea and Ms. Danko discussed the line item for funding the County's law library.

The Chair moved on to a discussion of the draft capital budget resolution, describing the anticipated bond proceeds and capital reimbursements, noting that the 2015 capital budget is approximately \$20 million higher than the 2014 capital budget, and highlighting a side by side comparison of the draft resolution and the capital budget recommendation made by the administration.

Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed a project to be undertaken at Hartwood Acres relating to a pavilion.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain described what types of work are undertaken in lateral support projects.

Ms. Heidelbaugh asked for some additional detail relating to a pedestrian bridge project. The Chair and Mr. McKain noted that the bridge is being built pursuant to a court order, and will connect Heinz Field and the T.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. McKain noted that the connection to the T station renders the project eligible for drink tax funding.

Ms. Heidelbaugh, Ms. Rea and Mr. McKain discussed potential long range goals for the Clack Center.

In response to a question from Ms. Heidelbaugh, Mr. Casciato discussed the proposed funding for updating the County Comprehensive Plan.

The Chair moved on to a discussion of the draft grants & special accounts resolution, describing the anticipated grant revenues, projects, and the differences between the draft resolution and the administration's suggested grant and special account budget.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:09.