

# **Allegheny County Council**

*County of Allegheny  
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## **Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, December 13, 2007**

**5:30 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

### **Committee on Public Safety**

*Jim Burn, Chair; John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, Chuck Martoni, and  
William Robinson - Members*

**I. Call to Order**

**Summary:** *The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Bob Full, Chief, Emergency Services**

**Wayne Roller, North Hills COG**

**Summary:** *Invited guests in attendance: Derek Uber for Mr. Flynn, Mr. Full, Mr. Roller*

*Recognized attendees: Bud Schubel, Economic Development; and Art Gazdik, Ross Township Engineer*

**II. Roll Call**

***Roll Call:*** Present: Matt Drozd, and Jim Burn

Absent: John DeFazio, Vince Gastgeb, Chuck Martoni, and William Robinson

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**3604-07** Motion to approve the minutes of the October 18 and October 25, 2007 Public Safety Committee Meetings.

**Action:** **A motion was made by Drozd, seconded by Burn, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Agenda Items****Ordinance**

**3380-07** An Ordinance amending and supplementing the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled "County Government Operations," through the creation of a new Chapter 280, entitled "Land Use Plans," in order to provide a uniform mechanism for the review of potential effects of proposed developments on stormwater management within the County.

**Sponsors:** Rich Fitzgerald

**Summary:** *The sponsor of the bill said that he will reintroduce this bill next year.*

**Action:** **Held in Committee**

**Resolutions**

**3471-07** A Resolution of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing the Chief Executive to study and implement a Countywide program for enlisting the assistance of volunteers and local businesses to aid in flood remediation efforts in municipalities or areas prone to experiencing flood damage.

**Sponsors:** Dave Fawcett, Jim Burn and Matt Drozd

**Summary:** *The Chair said that he witnessed first hand the importance of volunteers. Mr. Drozd said that the volunteer aspect of disaster recovery is critical, but the state puts too many restrictions on municipalities regarding their use of volunteers. The Chair asked Mr. Full to provide a summary of the bill. Mr. Full said that the bill would encourage the Chief Executive to establish a countywide Volunteer Flood Remediation Program. He said that the program would be designed with six primary focus areas, as follow:*

- 1. The education of property owners as to collective actions and volunteer efforts;*
- 2. The solicitation of individuals to perform flood remediation tasks on a voluntary basis;*
- 3. Requests to the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and any other government or private entity deemed appropriate for assistance in formulating volunteer flood remediation strategies;*
- 4. Solicitations to businesses or other entities located within the County for assistance, materials, or other services consistent with remediation strategies developed;*
- 5. Publicizing the need for and effectiveness of flood remediation activities by individuals within the County; and*
- 6. Training volunteers and property owners to perform the necessary tasks, and administering the volunteers in performing such tasks.*

*He also said that the bill would authorize the Executive to conduct discussions with any municipality within the County for the purposes of developing an intergovernmental cooperation agreement governing the activities of the County Volunteer Flood Remediation Program.*

*Mr. Roller spoke in favor of the bill. He said that these efforts could be strengthen if they lobbied the state representatives and senators to put more teeth into these efforts. The Chair agreed and asked that he and other members of council be included in the loop.*

**Action:** **A motion was made by Drozd, seconded by Burn, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Enactment No: 55-07-RE**

### **3593-07**

Resolution approving the Stormwater Management Plan Update to the County's 1985 Stormwater Management Plan for Girtys Run, Pine Creek, Squaw Run and Deer Creek Watersheds pursuant to P.L. 864, No. 167 known as the Stormwater Management Act 32 P.S. § 680.1 et.seq. ("Act 167")

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** *Mr. Roller and Mr. Gazdik provided an oral presentation of the Plan. They said that the bill would authorize the adoption of updates to the County's 1985 storm water management plan for the Girty's Run, Pine Creek, Squaw Run and Deer Creek watersheds.*

*The also said that Allegheny County in 1985 prepared and adopted the original Act 167 Storm water Management Plan for Girtys Run, Pine Creek, Squaw Run and Deer Creek Watersheds. They said that these plans are designed to encourage planning and management of storm water runoff in each watershed, and are intended to provide an approach to managing storm water by emphasizing the control of storm water runoff by local governments through adoption and enforcement of ordinances, codes and regulations.*

*They explained that Act 167 requires that counties prepare, revise and adopt watershed plans. Section 5 (a) of Act 167 requires that each existing watershed plan be reviewed and necessary updates be made at least every five years. The municipalities that make up the watersheds of Pine Creek, Girtys Run, Squaw Run, and Deer Creek petitioned the County in 2003 to undertake a plan update. Allegheny County did not have the funding to undertake this endeavor at that time, but a local engineer subsequently volunteered his time to move the process along.*

*They said that Act 167 also requires two procedural steps before a plan update can be adopted. The first is a public hearing, which was held on October 9, 2007. The second is the passage of a resolution authorizing the adoption by the County's governing body (Council). If Bill 3593-07 passes, this second procedural hurdle will be cleared and the plan update will be forwarded to the PA Department of Environmental Protection for final approval.*

*They said that this is not a study, it is an Ordinance. The Chair said that he would like to make this a countywide effort and asked Mr. Roller if he could provide him with the information necessary to accomplish that. Mr. Roller said he would.*

**Action:**      **A motion was made by Drozd, seconded by Burn, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**  
**Enactment No: 57-07-RE**

## **V.      Adjournment**

**Summary:**      *The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM*