

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, Vince Gastgeb, and Rich Nerone

I. Call to Order

Summary: *Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance

Derek Uber, Assistant County Manager

Summary: *Invited Guest Present: Mr. Uber; Pete Schepis for Ms. Griser*

Recognized Attendees: Mr. Dennis Biondo, Director, Kane Regional Centers

Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak and Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Summary: *Non-Committee Council Members Present: Bob Macey*

Roll Call: Present: Susan Caldwell, Joan Cleary, Michael Finnerty, Brenda Frazier, and Chair William Robinson

Absent: Jim Burn, Matt Drozd, Vince Gastgeb, and Rich Nerone

III. Approval of Minutes

2757-06 Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 15, 2006 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Ordinance**

2748-06 An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending Division 1 of the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances to include a new Section 5-905.04, entitled "Allegheny County Professional Services Review Committee Reporting Obligations."

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Summary: *Chairman Robinson, sponsor of this Bill, chose to hold it in Committee.*

Action: **Held in Committee**

Resolutions

2717-06

Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note in the maximum principal amount of \$37,600,000; providing for the date, interest rate, maturity date, place of payment and prepayment provisions in respect of the note; accepting the proposal of Mellon Bank, N.A. for the purchase and financing of the note; providing for the security of the note; authorizing the proper officers to execute and deliver the note; authorizing and directing the preparation, certification and filing of the proceedings with the Department of Community and Economic Development; providing for a paying agent; setting forth a form of note; and repealing inconsistent resolutions.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary:

This is a Resolution authorizing the issuance of a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note in the amount of \$37,600,000.00.

Chairman Robinson said this Bill is standard procedure and refers to the Kane Regional Centers.

For the past 12 years, Ms. Liptak said the County has been involved in this type of transaction. There's a loop in the federal funding stream which allows Allegheny County and other counties to leverage funding by borrowing money. This Council authorized us to participate, and at no cost to the County we will receive \$600,000 in revenue.

Chairman Robinson said that this money would only be used for the Kane Regional Centers and Ms. Liptak concurred.

Mr. Schepis said that the amount of revenue could be as high as \$1.2 million with a minimum of \$600,000. Chairman Robinson said that the County can anticipate \$600,000 until they receive a final figure from Mr. Schepis.

Councilwoman Cleary asked how long this program would last and Mr. Schepis replied, probably until 2009.

Councilwoman Caldwell asked whether the legislation made it clear that the revenue would be used specifically for the Kane Centers.

Mr. Schepis responded by saying that the funds come to the County as revenue and they use it to support the Kanes.

Councilwoman Caldwell asked why the Resolution didn't specify that the monies would go to the Kane Regional Centers. Ms. Liptak said the Resolution is standardized and they customize it for Allegheny County.

Director Biondo explained that the \$37.6 million figure comes from many counties borrowing together, on a one-time basis, and paid back the same day which allows the state to go to the federal government and recoup those monies. It is accounted for on the Kane books as revenue and benefits the Kane Centers. In previous years, Council

used this money to support the Kane Centers, even though it doesn't specify that the money will be directed toward the Kane Centers.

Chairman Robinson said Director Biondo coordinates efforts with the Office of Budget & Finance. He stated that there's already a figure in mind, but it's not clear if the amount will match what is listed in the budget, but it's probably pretty accurate. Council will have a solid figure to work with during the usual budget process.

Councilwoman Cleary said this money has always helped support the Kanes and deservedly so.

Councilwoman Caldwell asked about the mention of the CFO of the Kane Regional Centers and she was told that his name is Mr. David Polinak.

Director Biondo addressed the Committee Members saying the state would like a decision by the end of this month.

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

2720-06

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny approving certain Inter-Departmental Transfers in the Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2006.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak said that during the 2006 budget cycle, the Chief Executive had monies saved for a possible City-County merger in regards to purchasing, so a contingency fund was created pending a City-County merger. The merger did not go through, so the Division of Purchasing requires monies for the rest of the year to continue operations. This transfer is necessary and will allow them to remain at their current staff level. The department had contracted employees which were moved into full-time status and placed on the payroll.*

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

2721-06

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2006 (Submission #08-06).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Liptak said there are eight budget blocks, with the majority being amendment grants for the Department of Human Services. The DHS receives most of their money from state and federal sources, so when they receive any additional money they must come before Council. Ms. Liptak said that everything appeared to be in order.*

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

Discussion Topic

Summary: *Chairman Robinson informed the group that Ms. Liptak compiled information which will be submitted to every Budget & Finance Committee Member concerning authorities, boards, etc. He said if anyone needs additional copies, those can be*

provided.

He said this information will be in the 2007 Budget Book. The Budget Book is an internal document which provides best estimates. Robinson reminded Members that the contents of the Budget Book are working documents.

Chairman Robinson added that this information will benefit the public through transparency and accountability in government.

V. Adjournment

Summary: *Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.*