

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Paul Klein, Chair; Patrick Catena, Samuel DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Charles Martoni, Sue Means and John Palmiere, Members.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:06.

Invited Guests:

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

Ms. Soroka, Ms. Berbekec and Mr. Rambo were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Paul Klein, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 5 - Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Ed Kress, Bob Macey and Chuck Martoni

Members Phone: 1 - Patrick Catena

III. Approval of Minutes

[10197-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting held on May 17, 2017.

A motion was made by Palmiere, seconded by Means, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Resolutions

[10193-17](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2017 (Submission #06-17).

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. McKain summarized its provisions, noting that the first part of the proposed amendment would account for an additional \$80,580 from PCCD for the District Attorney to purchase additional security cameras in strategically selected areas for preventative and investigatory purposes. Ms. Soroka noted that this grant runs for a year, which will give the County until next May to expend the funds. Mr. McKain noted that the District Attorney believes that, properly used, these types of cameras are valuable investigatory tools.

Ms. Means and Mr. McKain discussed the use of cameras in law enforcement and prosecution purposes, and the absence of any County match for the grant.

Mr. McKain noted that the second part of the proposed amendment would account for a \$100,000 new grant from PCCD to Adult Probation in order to purchase approximately 50 new monitoring devices, together with breathalizers, computer and other hardware, and the acquisition of a keycard security system to aid in implementing evidence-based supervision and staff safety.

Mr. Shear noted that some of the computer hardware would be comprised of Chromebooks which are used by officers in the field to alleviate the need to return to the office for certain activities, and that the existing portable devices are aging to the point of approaching the end of their useful lives.

Ms. Means and Mr. Shear discussed the activities of probation officers in the field.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Mr. Shear noted that some of the funding would be used to allow some officers to attend a professional development convention here in Pittsburgh.

Mr. Palmiere expressed support for the activities of the Adult Probation office.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. McKain noted that the purposes for which the funds can be used are determined by the purposes delineated in the grant application.

In response to a question from Mr. Catena, Mr. McKain indicated that he always has concerns about the continuation of funding sources, but that he is also aware that Allegheny County is well-regarded throughout the Commonwealth and that this will hopefully work in the County's favor in future funding application scenarios.

A motion was made by Catena, seconded by Palmiere, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19.