

# Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny  
436 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone (412) 350-6490*



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, February 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*

*Chuck Martoni*

*Sue Means*

*John Palmiere*

*Jan Rea*

## I. Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM.*

**Council Members Present:** 6 - Finnerty, Daly Danko, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere

**Council Members Absent:** 3 - Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Rea

## Invited Guests:

**William D. McKain, CPA - County Manager**  
**Warren Finkel - County Budget and Finance Director**  
**Jerry Tyskiewicz - Administrative Services Director**

## II. Roll Call

## III. Approval of Minutes

[8045-14](#) Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee of Allegheny County on January 22, 2014.

## IV. Agenda Items

### Resolutions

[8037-14](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2008 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*The clerk read the title of the bill into the record and the Chair asked Mr. Szymanski to review the amendment for the committee.*

*Mr. Martoni made a motion for approval and Mr. Macey seconded.*

*Ms. Danko asked where the 500k originated. Adam Lentz, of the Budget office, was asked to answer the questions on the grant. The Parks foundation was the source of the grant. Mr. McKain stated that the County could have provided for the funds without the Parks Foundation but utilized the Foundation to secure the grants but the County will administer how the bids for the project is handled.*

*Ms. Means asked for clarification on the grant money and how it was set aside. Mr. McKain stated that capital funds do not lapse, they are ongoing and paid out of the debt service fund. Now they are utilizing this money for the particular project. Ms. Means asked if we had been paying debt service prior to the project's inception, and inquired if there are other projects waiting to begin which we are currently paying debt service on. Mr. McKain stated that their could be. This money was a predetermined set aside for general parks projects.*

*The Chair clarified that the Capital Budget is a multi-year budget that does not lapse.*

**A motion was made by Daly Danko, seconded by Martoni, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Council Members Yes:** 6 - Finnerty, Daly Danko, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere

**Council Members Absent:** 3 - Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Rea

[8038-14](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2011 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Symanski reviewed the amendment for the committee.*

*Ms. Means inquired how the project monies are balanced with the bond money. Mr. Lentz answered*

*Unanimous*

**A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Daly Danko, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Council Members Yes:** 6 - Finnerty, Daly Danko, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere

**Council Members Absent:** 3 - Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Rea

[8039-14](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2014 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Szymanski reviewed the amendments provisions stating that it would not*

*Mr. Macey asked where the additional mowing equipment would go. Mr. McKain stated that the equipment would go to the Department of Public Works generally for maintenance at all the parks.*

*Mr. Macey stated his concerns on which parks would get the new equipment and how that would be distributed fairly. Mr. McKain stated that they were working with the Parks Department to determine where new facilities upgrades will go such as grills, tables, etc.*

*The Chair asked how much RAD money the County received for these projects. Mr. McKain clarified that RAD was making the determination and giving the County the same amount of money as in previous years.*

*The bill was unanimously approved for affirmative recommendation.*

**A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Council Members Yes:** 6 - Finnerty, Daly Danko, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere

**Council Members Absent:** 3 - Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Rea

[8040-14](#) A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2014 (Submission #02-14).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Palmiere asked if RAD usually made the decisions on how the money would be spent in the Parks. This time the Parks Department gave a list of projects they wanted to use the money for and RAD agreed. ( for bill # 8039)*

*Mr. Szymanski reviewed the amendment to the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2014 and Mr. Martoni made a motion to approve.*

*Ms. Means asked why this was being funded through the Department of Economic Development. Mr. Schepis was asked to come to the table to answer. The funds at subject are HUD funds and are traditionally handled through Economic Development.*

*Ms. Danko asked for clarification on how HUD funds are distributed. Mr. Schepis stated that the emergency Shelter grant is designated to the homeless information system which flows through Economic Development. The HUD monies flow through DHS*

*Mr. Schepis stated that there are 3500 people tracked through this service and that the administrative cost is actually reasonable considering the size. The system was put out for bid at its inception. The tracking system is a prerequisite for HUD funds.*

*Mr. Macey asked about the outcomes and efficiencies of the system and clarified that this was actually saving lives and saving tax payer money. Mr. Schepis agreed but stated that he needed to gather more information from the department. Mr. Palmiere asked that the number of veterans be tracked as well.*

**A motion was made by Martoni, seconded by Macey, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Council Members Yes:** 6 - Finnerty, Daly Danko, Macey, Martoni, Means and Palmiere

**Council Members** 3 - Green Hawkins, Heidelbaugh and Rea

**Absent:**

### Discussion Topic

*Prior to discussion of the bills, Mr. Tyskiewicz was invited to the by the Chair to present on the Department of Administrative Services.*

*Mr. Tyskiewicz gave an overview of all operations overseen by the Administrative services. The Chair asked that the presentation be limited to be about 15 minutes so that the business items would also receive adequate time for consideration. The budgets for all individual operations including Weights and Measures, the Election Department, Mailing and Printing Services, Office of Property Assessments, Purchasing and Supplies, and Veterans Services were highlighted along with a description of each branch operation.*

*Mr. Tyskiewicz offered to answer any more detailed questions about his department including the operation of the Office of Property Assessments and the review of Homestead Exemption. Mr. McKain stated that they had strengthened the controls on the Homestead reviews and had found many duplicates.*

*The Chair asked if the penalties for Homestead violations had ever been enforced. Mr. McKain stated that he would review that inquiry with the Law Department.*

*The Chair asked that each member limit themselves to one question. And opened the floor.*

*Ms. Means inquired regarding the operations of the Weights and Measures and how they inspected businesses.*

*Mr. Macey and Palmiere thanked Mr. Tyskiewicz for his presence.*

*Council President DeFazio asked about the Homestead reevaluation process and how the department determined who was a "non-taxable" entity.*

*Mr. McKain stated that he would gather more information on that and get back to Council.*

*Mr. Martoni commended the department of Weights and Measures.*

*Ms. Danko inquired about redistricting and the Elections Department and how the system was outdated and possibly could be made more efficient. Mr. McKain answered that the Administration was looking into the issue and the Director of Elections had been studying the issue but would like to withhold his evaluation results until a 4 or 8 year election cycle.*

*Mr. McKain stated he could probably report back some information on Elections and redistricting by the next budget cycle.*

*The Chair clarified that each municipality needed to cooperate in a redistricting process.*

*Mr. Futules joined the meeting.*

*The Chair asked that information on Mr. Tyskiewicz presented be given to Mr. Szymanski for distribution.*

## **V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.*