

# Allegheny County Council

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

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009**

**4:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Budget and Finance**

*William Russell Robinson, Chair; Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, Bob Macey, and Chuck McCullough - Members*

**I. Call to Order**

**Summary:** *The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.*

**Invited Guests:**

**Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee**

**Amy Griser, Director of Budget & Finance**

**Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager**

**Kate Barkman, Director of Court Records**

**Summary:** *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Derek Uber, Deputy County Manager; Amy Griser, Director, Budget & Finance Department; Kate Barkman, Director, Department of Court Records*

*Recognized Attendees: Mike Wojcik, County Solicitor; Joe Rizzo, Deputy Sheriff*

*Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak; Jared Barker; Joe Catanese; Stephanie Buka*

**II. Roll Call**

***Roll Call:*** Present: Matt Drozd, Michael Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb, Amanda Green, William Robinson, Rich Fitzgerald, and Nick Futules  
Absent: Jim Burn, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, and Chuck McCullough  
Phone: Bob Macey

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**4737-09** Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 24, 2009 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Resolutions**

**4698-09** A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the 2009 Capital Budget for Allegheny County.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** *Chairman Robinson provided a hand-out (on file) labeled, "Port Authority of Allegheny County Unfunded Capital Projects due to lack of County Capital Funding."*

*Solicitor Wojcik said it's his legal opinion that this bill is consistent with the Consent Decree. Once the \$12 million dollars of excess monies collected from the drink tax is spent, the County will have met the conditions of the Consent Decree. The \$3.65 million for the Port Authority is part of the \$12 million.*

*Councilman Gastgeb asked when the Port Authority requested funding for these projects, and Chairman Robinson replied, prior to the lawsuit being filed.*

*Councilman Gastgeb noted that the North Shore Connector project was not on the list. Chairman Robinson said yes, the projects on the list are the only ones that Council may spend money on.*

*Councilman Drozd asked about the Automated Fare Collection System and what Council's return on investment would be, and Chairman Robinson said the Port Authority seems to be confident that it will improve efficiency.*

*Councilman Gastgeb said the public should know that while Council is providing \$3.65 million, the Port Authority will in fact receive over \$100 million dollars when you factor in the federal and state dollars that the \$3.65 million helps leverage. Chairman Robinson said the Port Authority does leverage the County's money and reminded members that he suggested withholding a portion of funds from the Port Authority, but Council voted that down.*

*Councilman Gastgeb said he would like additional information on the specific projects and he would prefer to vote on this bill sometime in May. Councilman Drozd agreed and asked if anyone at the table could explain the project for LRV Purchase & Overhaul.*

*President Fitzgerald said that Mr. Stephen Bland, Director of the Port Authority, has provided a lot of information to them in the past through informational sessions, and he has always been cooperative when asked to come before Council to answer questions. He added that Mr. Bland will be visiting members in a few weeks.*

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

*Votes:* Yes: 4 - Finnerty, Green, Macey and Robinson  
No: 2 - Drozd and Gastgeb  
Absent: 4 - Burn, Cleary, DeFazio and McCullough  
Non-Member: 2 - Fitzgerald and Futules

**4746-09** A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 (Submission #06-09).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** *Ms. Liptak explained the amendment to the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2009 and said every item is in order.*

*Chairman Robinson explained that if the County accepts the grant for the Sheriff's Office, then the Sheriff will be required to enforce the state's Gaming Control Board law.*

*Councilman Gastgeb said Governor Rendell's definition of video poker machines predates slot machines, and if the enforcement targeted establishments that operate video poker machines, then he would not support accepting the grant.*

*Councilman Futules said he believes that a machine is considered illegal if it is on premises, and accepts monies and tallies points.*

*Deputy Sheriff Rizzo explained why the Sheriff applied for the grant, stating that the*

*Sheriff's Office is part of the District Attorney's Nuisance Bar Task Force. He said since their deputies would already be on the scene as part of the task force, this would be an additional service they could provide. The grant would allow them to train two deputies on how to enforce the Gaming Control Board laws.*

*Councilman Futules asked if the municipality may be held liable if they issued a license for an illegal machine. Sheriff Rizzo said he believes so.*

*Councilman Gastgeb expressed his feeling that this is a state issue. He asked if the Nuisance Bar Task Force is mentioned in the grant Agreement. Sheriff Rizzo could not locate such language in the document. Councilman Gastgeb said he would like to see the Agreement and would abstain from voting on the bill until he can review it.*

*Councilman Finnerty asked if all of the LIHEAP monies were used and Ms. Liptak said she would obtain and provide that information to him.*

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

**Votes:** Yes: 5 - Drozd, Finnerty, Green, Macey and Robinson  
Abstain: 1 - Gastgeb  
Absent: 4 - Burn, Cleary, DeFazio and McCullough  
Non-Member: 2 - Fitzgerald and Futules

**Discussion Topic:**

**1. Departmental Functional Review – Department of Court Records**

**Summary:** *Ms. Barkman and Ms. Griser provided the Committee with an overview of the Department of Court Records operations and administration. She distributed a document (on file) to Council which contained a Department Functional Review of the Department of Court Records. She reviewed the document with Councilmembers.*

*Ms. Griser commented that the Department reduced staff by 25 people, at least half of which came about by retirement, and resulted in a savings of \$1.1 million.*

**V. Adjournment**

**Summary:** *The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.*