

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
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Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 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:

Mark Flaherty, County Controller or Designee

Valerie McDonald-Roberts, Manager, Department of Real Estate

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Jim Flynn, County Manager; Mark Flaherty, County Controller; Valerie McDonald-Roberts, Manager, Department of Real Estate*

Recognized Attendees: Reginald Young, Deputy Director, DHS, Office of Community Services; Jonathan Walkush, DHS, Office of Community Services, Bureau of Employment & Training, Planning and Operations Manager; Guy Tumolo, Controller's Office

Council Staff Present: Jennifer Liptak; Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

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

III. Approval of Minutes

4816-09 Motion to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2009 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting.

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

IV. Agenda Items**Resolutions**

4811-09 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 provided the committee with a detailed summary and explanation of the bill. She also provided a hand-out concerning the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.*

Councilman Drozd said it was his understanding that they could be held personally liable for mismanaging any ARRA monies. Ms. Liptak said she would research this matter and provide her findings to Councilman Drozd.

Mr. Young said the stimulus money will be used for individuals that meet the eligibility

guidelines and are interested in employment training. Mr. Walkush explained that the County provides \$8,000.00 per individual.

Chairman Robinson asked if they might run out of funding, and Mr. Walkush said the deadline for expending funds is June 30, 2011, and since these funds come under the Workforce Investment Act, that is unlikely to occur.

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

Discussion Topic

1. The Controller will provide an overview of the 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Summary: *Controller Flaherty gave a presentation summarizing the 2008 CAFR and the County's overall financial position.*

In a response to a question from Councilman Finnerty, Mr. Tumolo explained that \$7.6 million was used to pay for debt service.

Controller Flaherty commented that most expenses fall into the health and welfare category, with the Jail and Kane Centers as key areas to consider. On a positive note, the County made a \$28.6 million reduction in expenditures in 2008, when compared to 2007.

Mr. Flaherty said the County's federal and state funding has been cut, however, the County continues to provide the same level of services which were offered when the County was fully funded. He said the options are either to cut programs and services or find other sources of revenue.

In response to a question from Chairman Robinson, Mr. Flaherty stated that they are working with the Office of Property Assessments to identify bad addresses and the individuals that, for the first time, haven't paid their County taxes.

Mr. Flaherty said the County has done a good job at holding the line on expenditures, but it's the revenues that the County needs to work on.

2. Departmental Functional Review – Real Estate

Summary: *Manager McDonald-Roberts provided the Committee with an update on the County's Real Estate Department.*

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*