

# **Allegheny County Council**

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## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 31, 2016**

**4:00 PM**

**Conference Room 1**

## **Committee on Budget and Finance**

*Mike Finnerty, Chair*

*Members; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, John Palmiere*

**I. Call to Order**

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

**Invited Guests:**

**William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee**

**Mary Soroka, County Budget Director or Designee**

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

*Ms. Soroka was present from the Department of Budget & Finance.*

*Mr. Hurley and Mr. Exler were present from the Department of Economic Development.*

*Mr. Martin was present from Cohen & Grigsby.*

*Ms. Micco was present from Robert Morris University.*

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

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** 5 - Finnerty, Sam DeMarco, Paul Klein, Ed Kress and Sue Means

**Members Absent:** 3 - Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and John Palmiere

**Members Phone:** 1 - Nick Futules

**Members** 1 - Cindy Kirk

**Non-Members:**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[9807-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting held on August 24, 2016.

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

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

[9788-16](#)

A Resolution of the County of Allegheny amending the Grants and Special Accounts Budget for 2016 (Submission #08-16).

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Szymanski*

summarized its provisions, noting that one portion is a new \$22,442 grant to the Health Department for mosquito control, the second portion is a new \$70,000 grant, also awarded to the Health Department, to facilitate participation in a project in conjunction with Georgia State University, and the third portion is an addition of \$624,222 to an existing grant for the Area Agency on Aging in order to facilitate nursing home pre admission assessments.

Mr. McKain noted that the mosquito control program would utilize existing personnel, although an intern from the University of Pittsburgh would assist with data gathering.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, the Chair and Mr. DeMarco noted that the mosquito control program is directed at controlling the spread of Zika and other viruses.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, the Chair discussed the methodology through which the neighborhoods were selected for mosquito control efforts, noting that the determination was based on past experience with mosquito control efforts.

Ms. Means suggested that there probably is wisdom in conducting a survey of this nature.

Mr. Kress suggested that spraying for mosquitoes will obviously have an effect on any mosquito-borne illness.

Mr. DeMarco noted that the grant entails no County match.

Mr. McKain provided a summary of the project to be undertaken with Georgia State University, noting that the concept is to undertake meetings with community stakeholders, engage consultants, and undertake other activities aimed at increasing awareness of trends in community health issues in order to aid in developing an action plan for addressing those issues.

Mr. Klein and Mr. McKain discussed the activities of the Health Department in general to identify and address community health trends.

In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Mr. McKain noted that the Department sought this grant.

Ms. Means requested information regarding how well these type of stakeholder meetings are attended. Mr. McKain briefly described the ways in which the Department attempts to inform relevant parties of those meetings when they are to take place, and offered to provide additional information to the Chair. Ms. Soroka suggested that the grant-funded program is intended to increase the effectiveness and efficiency with which the Department reaches the right people to participate.

Mr. DeMarco noted that it appears that the Department is attempting to develop metrics by ZIP code in order to target its efforts.

Ms. Soroka described the nursing home pre-admission assessment funding, noting that it will aid the Area Agency on Aging in its efforts to place individuals in the right settings.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Soroka and Mr. McKain noted that the Council had previously approved a \$2.9 million amount for this grant.

**A motion was made by Means, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

9789-16

A Resolution approving a Project for the benefit of Robert Morris University, a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (the "University") to be financed by the Allegheny County Higher Education Building Authority by the issuance of the Authority's tax-exempt bonds, to be issued in one or more series, in the aggregate principal amount not expected to exceed \$31,000,000, provided that the taxing power of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (the "County"), shall not be obligated in any way with respect to the Bonds (hereinafter defined), and determining that the purpose of the financing will be to benefit the health and welfare of the citizens of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Hurley briefly summarized its provisions, noting that the bond issue would not exceed \$31 million, with about \$7 million used to finance a new 68 unit residence facility at the University, with the balance used to refinance previously issued bonds. Mr. Hurley noted that the resolution would authorize a tax-exempt bond issuance but would not obligate the County in any fashion, although the County would realize a closing fee of about \$21,000 and an annual maintenance fee of about \$7,700.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Micco briefly summarized the refinancing portion, and Mr. Marr noted that the concept is essentially to switch higher rate bonds for lower rate bonds so that, while the aggregate principal amount may not change much, the debt service will.*

*In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Micco discussed the University's current housing shortage and noted that enrollment is keeping pace with projections, so the new housing is expected to be needed for the foreseeable future.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Klein, Ms. Micco noted that about 800 full time students start as freshmen each year.*

*In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Ms. Micco and Mr. Marr noted that the interest rate savings would be about 2%, which is expected to equate to about a \$2 million savings over the lifetime of the bonds.*

*In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. Marr noted that the term of the new bonds would be no longer than the term of the currently existing bonds.*

*Mr. DeMarco noted that the determination of how to use the revenue generated from the bond issuance would, of course, be up to the University.*

*The Chair expressed a belief that the transaction is fairly straightforward.*

**A motion was made by Klein, seconded by DeMarco, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

## V. Adjournment

*The meeting adjourned at 4:31.*

