



CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Regular Meeting – March 13, 2012

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Board of Aldermen was called to order at 7 p.m. by Aldermanic President Gene Sharkey. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Roll Call

The secretary called the roll:

Edward Adamowski, D1- present
Robert Duffus, D1 - present
Charles Stowe, R2 - present
Philip Tripp, R2 - present
Joseph Jeanette, D3- present
Kevin Mott, D3 - present
Robert Beall, D4 - present

Jerome Fainer, D4 - present
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present
Joan Radin, R5 - present
Scott Nihill, D6 - present
David Knapp, D7- present
John Marini, R7 - present
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 14 present, 0 absent.

Consideration of Previous Minutes

Regular Meeting of February 14, 2012

President Sharkey stated, I have a couple of comments on the minutes before we accept and file them.

First, Patricia has made a correction to the face page - everybody should have received the new face page via e-mail or in your mailbox. It has already been filed with the Town Clerk.

In our minutes of February 14, in a couple of places I am quoted as saying Ansonia was ranked number 167 out of 168 - that's on page 4. And on page 5 the next to last sentence again, President Sharkey stated, "I don't like Ansonia to be ranked 168th." I would like to clarify that because people that are on the Finance Committee would recognize this document was given to each one of us when we sat in our Finance deliberations. The document is titled Ansonia Public Schools - 2012/2013 Budget Proposal. By the way, the document that I handed out to you, you have a copy of the last page that's there and if you will notice in the upper right-hand corner, I highlighted the one that's there says November 2010. These were handed to us in the 2012-2013 budget. The one

from the State is printed November 2010. Yes, it was highlighted and it shows we were last at 166th. You can see it highlighted on the back of your first page. However, if you look at the next page that I stapled there, inadvertently we were given November 2010; we should have been given November 2011 because we're hearing the budget for 2012-2013. If you look at the next copy that I highlighted, November 2011, if you look at the second page there, we actually have Ansonia as not last, of course they have districts, the regional districts don't count below us, but we in fact are listed ahead of Seymour; Seymour is listed at 160th; we are 159th and Oxford is 156th and Shelton is 155th. I don't want to be accused of giving out misleading information. That is the information that was handed to us. This information is readily available; you can see on the front page - Connecticut Department of Education Bureau of Grants Management - it's current expenditures, the amount per pupil.

A couple of other things coming up here, on Page 12 - the last paragraph at the bottom - Alderman Marini stated in there that he was proud of the work put in, that our Chairman for this process has done a wonderful job and came up with new and innovative solutions to apply in the future. Through it all I'm very happy, both parties have been willing to work side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder to do what's good for the City, and we thank him for his comments on that. The next paragraph he was talking about the loss of the priority district grant and in that paragraph he says, I proposed last night to have the budget increase to the Board of Education be \$232,000 and again, goes on to say the difference between my proposal and the proposal as it stands is \$400,000. Okay, I just want to make sure everybody realizes that there were two proposals. One proposal was for 1.75 mills; the other was for 1.45 mills. The other proposal that Alderman Marini made both in our Finance Committee and here before the Board did include a tax increase.

I would like to also mention Page 15, second paragraph. Alderman Stowe stated, I was at the Finance Committee meeting, I supported a new ambulance, I supported two police cars with a detective vehicle, I supported two new officers because we're ready to have officers retire, I supported trying to see Public Works get a couple of vehicles. We're going to do that by capital investment. I supported, not that I want to see taxes raised, I supported the Library getting a little more money because the Library was going to stay open weekends and nights. He went on to say he would have supported the \$27 million if it was going toward all day kindergarten. I just want to bring that forward, because there are people saying you're saying that it's the Democrats that are raising taxes.

Alderman Stowe stated, I also support what Governor Scott Walker is doing in Wisconsin that I don't see happening in this State where people take furloughs, freezes in their wages, and streamlining and efficiency. That hasn't been addressed.

President Sharkey stated, I agree. It hasn't been addressed but it was part of our recommendations going forward, where also the use of furloughs and

everybody voted on that to go forward with it. I am just bringing forth what you had stated.

Alderman Stowe stated, but like everyone else in this room, Mr. President, I would like to see everybody have what they need.

President Sharkey stated, we are voting to accept the minutes with the only change we have is making mention of the fact that we did have the wrong figures from the Board of Education, and the other correction, the date on the front page, has already been filed.

Alderman Radin MOVED to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2012; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Public Session

Randolph Carroll, 40 Fourth Street

On the Board of Aldermen minutes from February 14th, I did not say that the contents where I live should be placed on the blighted building list; I said that Ansonia Copper and Brass building should be placed on the blighted building list.

As Chairman of the Historical Commission, regarding Communication 2 - the young gentleman came before my Commission. We fully support the project the young man wants to do. We also told the Planning and Zoning and the Historic District Commission, which we are not part of. Our Commission fully wants him to get his Eagle Scout badge and we support him.

Robert Quinn, 50 Elaine Drive

I have a question for the Board that I hope can be considered this evening. I don't think there's anybody here in this room that does not think that Riverwalk we have in Ansonia is by all means a jewel. I am a walker; I walk every day. I've walked the Ansonia side, I've walked the Derby side, I've walked in Shelton, I walk all over. The past month or so I have been having contact with people who are bringing dogs on the Ansonia side. As I approach these people and tell them of the rules and regulations of the Ansonia side, and the reason why we're not allowing dogs because we want to keep it beautiful for people to walk on, apparently people do not look at it the same way I do. I've been getting a lot of harassment, a lot of name calling, told to mind my own business, etc. I have noticed three weeks ago, two men with dogs up there. Last week there were three men with dogs. Today there were four men with dogs. It seems to be increasing as the weather gets better. They just have a blatant disregard for the trail and the people who are on it. On the trail I've seen everyone from people with walkers, to women with carriages, strollers, little kids walking on the trail. The trail has gotten to become now where there

are cups on the side of trail from Dunkin Donuts, cups on the side of the trail from McDonalds. This morning I found a half-eaten taco in a cardboard wrapper thrown into the water down below. There are soda cans. You name it; it's there. It's getting progressively worse. I went home and called the Ansonia Police Department and I asked them, what are the actual consequences for people who continually, knowingly go up on our trail and destroy it so that it becomes like Derby's trail where they had to take action to get the trail back in order.

President Sharkey interjected, I think I can answer that, and I don't mean to interrupt you. You let me know when you're through and we'll try and answer that. Yes, we did ban animals from there, pets, everything. We printed it on the sign; but there is so much printing on the sign, it's so small, people don't see it. What we've done is we now have had larger signs made. From what I understand they went up today. They had to include the actual ordinance number that allows someone to be fined. We discussed that with the Police Department - Chief Hale is here. We discussed it. We will have people ticketed if they so violate that. There already is an ordinance against people just littering and throwing trash and that sort of thing. It's not that we intend to crack down on dogs, we intend to have them not be there. We don't want to have something start and it just continue and be something that we can't control. We've discussed with the Police Department that any time someone sees someone up there for us to notify and they will try and handle it. Please don't get yourself in trouble with these people. Don't have anybody harass you. If you have access to a cell phone, call and report that there's people up there with dogs. I'm sure as officers are available the Police Department will try and send someone down there. There is only one way off there now; so if they're up there already and the Police Officer sees them, they've got to come back off there. When they come back off there, hopefully... The first time maybe, I don't know, I don't want to be a police officer. I'm not saying they're going to get warnings and then get tickets - the signs are big enough now. They are up; they include the ordinance. The dogs should not be there.

Mr. Quinn stated, what I'm getting from people with dogs up there is, and I've heard it all, I'm getting from people with dogs, "well the sign does say no dogs allowed, except dogs with special services." So I say to them, well do you know what special services are? And they say, yes, I am a special service person. This person is jogging with his dog on the trail. So I stop him and I say to him, how do I know that you are a special services person, because people that I know that are special services, their dogs have tags on them and they have special harnesses that are made for the person to which that dog is attached. Well, nobody has an answer, but they all, all of a sudden, have special service dogs. So there's no way for anybody to distinguish who actually is a handicapped person and who actually is just using it for their own blatant interest.

The second thing I'm facing is, there are no garbage cans on that trail for people to put their cups, their soda, little kids I see with candy with the sandwich their mother made them, they don't have no place to put this. I'm not

saying it's excusable, I'm saying they could put it in their pocket, put it in their jacket, bring a bag with them. But there's just no garbage cans to place it in.

The third thing I'm trying to find out is, now that the signs are put up, the third thing I hear from people is, well okay, go ahead. Like one man said to me yesterday, go ahead, call Ansonia Police Department. I don't see anything on that posting that says I have to pay a fine. And if it's not legal, and these people have done their homework because I checked into it. If the sign does not say a fine or any accountability for your actions for breaking these laws, they can get away with it.

President Sharkey stated, true. But the ordinance is on the sign and as long as the ordinance is posted - I'll refer you to Chief Hale.

Chief Hale explained, to enforce it, people have to be notified. There has to be notice. The newspaper, that doesn't count. We're going to go by the town website. There is a sign; it's very small print. We all agreed that signs should be put up with specific ordinance. If you go to the ordinance, that number refers you to the ordinance, the ordinance tells you what's prohibited. And if you're in violation of that you can be fined, you can be issued an infraction. Before we were telling people but there really were no teeth so to speak. Now that the signs are up today, we can go ahead and enforce that.

Mr. Quinn stated, you see people are like parking in the handicapped spot. If you put a sign that says "handicapped - no parking unless you have a handicapped sticker" people will still pull in. They'll take the chance that you don't have the time to send the police to the parking lots to catch these people. But if you put a sign that says "Handicapped only - \$250 fine", people now notice the fine. They don't notice no handicapped parking. You have to put teeth that people understand. People will come up with, you know what they say, "you build a mousetrap, I'll build a better one", and that's what these people are doing. They're defiant, they're arrogant and a lot of these people are not even from Ansonia. They're from Stratford, they're from Bridgeport, they're from surrounding towns. They come to use our facilities, but they won't maintain them.

President Sharkey stated, we're going to try to the best of our ability first to enforce this ordinance. We're going to request that trash barrels be put there somehow some way. We need to do something, I agree with you. The other thing is, Derby does have their Public Works make a trip up there every day to empty the trash barrels and so forth. If the Police are going to be cognizant of who is using the Riverwalk, somehow, we're going to have to be cognizant of the trash that's being put there and we really need to maintain it. We all agree it's a jewel. Ansonia and Derby are combining and establishing a dog park and that is so that the people that have animals will have someplace to take them. So it's not just we're banning them; there is an alternative. They have another option. Hopefully once this gets all together that will eliminate the problem and if not, we'll hear from you again.

Mr. Quinn stated, I walk every day and I must have stopped probably 15 people since that Riverwalk opened. Some people tell me where they're from; some people don't. But I see them on the Derby side and I see them on the Ansonia side. The more Derby clamps down on theirs the more they come across the street to ours.

President Sharkey stated, we heard Derby is going to ban them too. We can't speak for Derby, but we heard they are going to adopt an ordinance.

Mr. Quinn stated, and Derby's supposed to put a fine too; they're going to put a heavy fine on them.

President Sharkey stated, maybe we can add the fine to the sign, but let's leave it as it is now and see if we can enforce it the way it is.

Mr. Quinn stated, I also mentioned the Officer at the desk when I called today that it wouldn't be a bad idea with the summertime coming if they took their bicycles and maybe rode once or twice a day or once or twice a week and checked out the trail, at random, not any special time but at random.

President Sharkey stated, I'm sure Chief Hale has something in mind.

Mr. Quinn stated, stop these people and catch them because, like one guy told me, "are you a policeman?" and I said, "no, I'm not." "Well, are you a dog pound warden?" "No, I'm not." "Well then, why am I talking to you?" "You're talking because I'm a resident of Ansonia and this is my park." It's just thankful that guy came from behind with his wife and pulled me away because him and I would be in the river. That's how you have to enforce these rules and regulations. People have got to be made accountable for what they do.

Alderman Marini stated, it was always the intention of the Committee to not only ban dogs from the walk, but to put some teeth into that. For the record, there is a monetary penalty - it is a \$99 infraction that certainly will make people think twice. And now the sign is up. Really, that's what the delay has been unfortunately.

Mr. Quinn stated, I never could understand why there were never any garbage cans for people to throw garbage in. Don't just hide the fine; let the people know what the fine is. Don't have a cop come up and say, "You've got a dog on the walkway; okay, here's a \$99 fine." Those people are going to say, "look, I see the sign but I don't see no fine." So they could take you to court and they could say, "They have a sign, no dogs, but I don't see nothing that says how much that fine is."

Alderman Marini stated, legally, we have satisfied the statutory requirements so legally that's not going to be a problem. However I understand your other

point very clearly - why wait for them to get caught. Seeing a statute is less effective than seeing a number.

President Sharkey stated, we will endeavor to do our best. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 138 Old Ansonia Road

The back of my house is on Castle Lane. In 2011 Patel that owns house 3 on Castle Lane, they had Public Works up there and the curbing was supposed to be raised. They came up there and marked it off where they would raise it, and they never came back since to raise it. The white chalk is still there. Another issue, over by Eagle Hose there's a pole that's strapped off. Sooner or later that pole is going to come down on somebody's car. Call UI or the phone company or something.

President Sharkey stated, we'll check it out.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I spoke with them when they were down there doing work. They're waiting for one of the other utility companies to get their wires off the pole. I talked to them on two separate occasions. If you noticed, most of the wires have already been done.

Mr. Musante stated, house 3 Patel, he can't make it here, he owns a business. This happened in 2011. Whoever came up there chalked it off and that was it.

President Sharkey stated, I imagine they're probably waiting for the asphalt plants to open, as far as I know they're still not open.

Mr. Musante asked, from 2011?

President Sharkey stated, yes, that's the fall. That would have been the fall. They closed in the fall, in October or November. I would imagine if they marked it they're going to come back.

Ed Norman, 51 Grove Street
Vice Chairman, Board of Apportionment and Taxation

I am here tonight to address proposed Resolution #1. To start off, Resolution #1 Charter Revision - I have always been an advocate of Charter Revision. From there through the rest of the proposal, it very much seems to me that it was written by very uninformed people that don't know the budget process. As Vice Chairman, I think I do know the budget process. In addition to that, what started with this is that I went to City Hall today and got a copy of the Resolution because I read The New Haven Register article yesterday as far as the press release in regard to this same resolution. A lot of misinformation in here. The person who is being quoted says that they oppose the 8.4 percent increase. That was the Board of Aldermen proposed budget. I know there was a lot of discussion and protest last year in regard to that increase but the Board

of Aldermen preparation of the budget is to charge all of the department heads and committees to prepare a budget. Before I was on the Board of Aldermen, the Board of Aldermen never reviewed the budget. I think there were nights that the budget from the Board of Aldermen was brought up for review and approval, it was handed out to the Board of Aldermen hot off the press, no one had even seen it.

When I was on the Board of Aldermen I was appointed to the Finance Committee and I was elected chairman. With that I said that we should have the budget process, which I attended a few this year, I attend them regularly. I think the Finance Chairman this year did an excellent job. But there was so much in here as far as bringing up this Charter Revision specifically for the budget and our budget process as far as giving the Board of Aldermen the opportunity to vote on the budget and approve the budget or change the budget as it came from the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. It would require a Charter Revision, first off, when you do Charter Revision all you have to do is request a Charter Revision, the Mayor would appoint a Charter Revision Commission and they would take it from there. One of the first charges of the Charter Revision Commission is that it opens up the whole Charter. You cannot open the Charter for a single item as identified here. Also with Charter Revision it does have to go through. If this Board was looking at Charter Revision, maybe they should look at the responsibilities of the Board of Aldermen. I don't know if any of you have read Section 93, but it is the most incoherent run-on sentence that is so outdated you would be surprised at what you are actually responsible for that you're not doing.

The Charter automatically changes when the State or Federal government passed legislation and it is something that if our Charter is opposite of what's being changed or they change the authority, that more or less automatically changes in our Charter and that's something that should be updated.

But if you read our Charter, there's a lot of outdated information in there throughout. If you're going to look at the Charter and as a member of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation we hold our hearings. We hold hearings with all of the departments. One of the things that does not happen is we don't get great participation. There are boards that are charged with creating the budget that never show up for the hearings. There are department heads that never show up for the hearings. Now, in the Charter, the boards and commissions are responsible for whatever department it is. Not to embarrass anyone, but last night we had one of the largest departments, probably third in the size of their budget, have a supervisor come. Not a single member of the board, not even the director. I think the director was excused because he had other commitments, but again, we've never seen board members. Another fellow came in who was the head of the department, but there were no board members with him. I think, we're going to look at what's there. The two things we should do if this fellow says we have laws, we should enforce them - if that's the process, we should enforce it. That's good input. When we are sitting there and we put in a lot of hours and it's not just two or three hours a week

that we have hearings, there's a lot of research that goes in, I know members of my board go out and also look at various departments, go out and question and see what's going on, see what programs are being run, see what increases are requested by the department heads or the boards and commissions. That takes a lot of work and it's not a little thing.

When the Board of Aldermen put together their budget, there are so many unknowns. There was talk here of going to a referendum and splitting the budget between a Board of Education budget and a City budget. With that, the problem with that is, it's stated in here that if one budget passed it would be approved, but how do you set a mill rate on that if the other budget is not approved because now you've got to go and balance the budget with the money that you have.

Other things that we don't know is the largest piece of the budget is the Board of Education. It's just about half of our budget. Half of that money comes from the State. We have no idea what the State is going to give us although we do know what they mandate. The mandates that are in there are quite frequently unfunded mandates. In addition to that we don't know what the State is going to contribute to the City if there's any kind of funding to support our budget. Our budget runs a lot on grants and other means of revenue, but primarily aside from the State grants for education, it's on the shoulders of the taxpayer whether it's local residents or business.

As I said, I was really furious when I read this resolution. I hope you do not consider the content but you do consider a Charter Revision because the Charter does need to be revised and probably should be revised from page one right on through. To go and try and unwittingly reverse our process I think is totally out of line because we do have a budget process that's working. I thank you.

President Sharkey stated, we will discuss it more when we get to Resolution #1.

Alderman Marini stated, Mr. Norman, I think Mr. Norman pretty much gets the process pretty much right, but just to address some things that could be a little confusing.

Mr. Norman asked, is that my process or your process?

Alderman Marini stated, as you've explained it. I think you're essentially right in that a Charter Revision does not need to be initiated by any specific resolution. However it could be, if you go back to the State Statute that is referenced in the resolution and you look it up and you read it, it says, the Charter Revision process can be started in two ways - one of which a petition by citizens, and another way is a two-thirds vote on an initiation resolution by, basically, the governing body of the City. So in this case, it could be a resolution that proposes something specific, or it could be something very general that says, we want to do Charter Revision. Either way, I think you're

absolutely right, whatever would be, say for example the resolution were passed by a 2/3 vote here tonight, that resolution would not be adopted by a Charter change, I think the New Haven Register article did get in right - upon information I gave them - if it's adopted by a 2/3 vote, that triggers the Charter Revision process at which time, and again you're absolutely right, revisions to that part of the Charter can be considered and revisions to any part of the Charter can be considered. It all becomes fair game. And even from there it needs to go to the ballot in November to actually become a real change to the Charter. That's a clarification, I think, just in terms of the process.

Mr. Norman stated, and I understand it to be that. You were sort of going maybe on a tangent there with your 2/3 majority. Even with a 2/3 majority to open up the Charter, the Charter is opened up. It cannot be, and maybe, and again, I hope there are recommendations from this Board because the Charter Revision process is a long, drawn out process as far as the content, public hearings, referendums and actual implementation of any changes. And with that, I thought you were going to say that if this Board voted 2/3 that we could go out and just change that one item.

Alderman Marini stated, well, no. What we're saying is it's going to open the process up. Now actually this is what I feel to be a first start - we may disagree on this but I recognize in my opinion two significant things that I would like to see changed. Number one, what I've been saying ever since that 8.4 percent tax increase was proposed, which is, I would like to see this Board take responsibility for finalizing the budget. Of course we could disagree - with no disrespect at all to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

Mr. Norman stated, I don't think it was irresponsible, but the way it was written in the article and the way it was quoted was like the Board of Apportionment and Taxation was imposing an 8.4 percent increase.

Alderman Marini stated, I didn't hone it with a fine-toothed comb, so I don't want to debate an article [inaudible - both parties speaking].

President Sharkey stated, we are way over our time limit - we can discuss this when we get to it.

Ken Plavnicky, 15 Mountainview

Some people I was talking to were asking if we can somehow get into this famous Fire Museum. Is there any way anybody can let us in for a tour of it or something?

President Sharkey - call me up and we'll make an appointment.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, call you up and make an appointment?

President Sharkey stated, I am the president of it.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, you're the president, okay. Get an appointment, okay. There's about 20 people that want to go, that's fine?

President Sharkey stated, yes.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, any time?

President Sharkey stated, you call me up, and when I'm available.

Mr. Plavnicky asked, when you're available?

President Sharkey stated, absolutely.

Mr. Plavnicky stated, okay. Thank you.

President Sharkey stated, it's like any private organization. My phone number is published.

President Sharkey asked if any other member of the public wished to speak. Being none, Alderman Beall MOVED to close the public session; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Public Official Session

Mayor James Della Volpe

I would like to commend the Salvation Army of Ansonia for winning Agency of the Year. This award was given by the Valley Council for Health and Human Services.

Also, I would like to commend Prendergast School for celebrating the first Star Spangled Banner Day held here in the City of Ansonia. We look forward to expanding that in the coming years.

I attended the opening of a new business in the plaza - Aaron's. They're off to a very good start, They're very pleased that they're here in Ansonia.

Mead School kicked off their Mastery Tests with a huge pep rally. The band played and it was a great kickoff for the Mastery Tests at Mead School.

I had the developer of Peck and Lincoln School come in. He has a developer that wants to put assisted living in at Peck School. I would request that the Aldermanic Land Use Committee meet to discuss that issue. I know that when we sold the property to Mr. Martin the agreement was that he was to tear the building down and have three single-family lots. I don't think that's changed, and I'd like to have the Board of Aldermen Land Use Committee meet and discuss that so we can get back to Mr. Martin.

We have ongoing talks with the City of Derby regarding the regionalization of education and the WPCA facility. We provided all the information requested by the City of Derby. Their engineers and our engineers will meet tomorrow to go over this data. We should hopefully have some news from Derby in the very near future. I also have had some preliminary talks with the City of Derby regarding the possibility of building a new, shared Senior Center. They need a new facility. When I go up to the Senior Center on a regular basis I'm always being asked, when are they going to get a new facility. We don't have the land but Derby might have some land along their Riverwalk. That is something we're going to be looking into. We are also looking into the possible regionalization of Public Works in regard to picking up trash and recyclables.

From the last meeting, I met with Chief Hale, the Tax Collector, the Tax Assessor, Corporation Counsel and Alderman Fainer regarding the out of state license plate problem that we do have in the City. We're in the process of formulating a plan which we'll notify everybody when it goes into effect how we're going to deal with that.

I have also met with the Tax Collector and we're becoming more aggressive about collecting back taxes. A letter has been sent out today; it was drafted during these past several weeks. It's been sent out to City Employees, because I know that was an issue. We are dealing with that.

I also met with some Ansonia High School students regarding Economic Development; with Vin Scarlotta to formulate a plan to get all of the data on Main Street. The students went around and took pictures of each storefront. It's been a great project and it's good to see them involved. Once their project is done we'll get back to you.

I went to Hartford and met with DEEP regarding the anaerobic digester. We are looking for a commitment in regard to DEEP giving us their support to go forward with this project. They said they would. The investors are looking for a letter of support so that they can go to the banks and try to free up some money. It's been very difficult to get funding for this project. We have done all of our work at the local level, now it's up to the State. The State is receptive to this idea.

In regard to the Woodbridge Avenue Memorial plaques - so far their Committee has raised \$4,000 and the Community Foundation has raised close to \$1,500. So we're going to try to get together with the Community Foundation, get all the funds together because they have some matching funds, and we should have enough. I know they want to make sure they have the plaques in place for their May 20th celebration, which will be the 68th celebration of that memorial.

Finally, we were unable to reach an agreement with the Police Union. So we have sent it on to the Board of Mediation and Arbitration. We are waiting to

hear from them as to when they're going to give us dates so we can sit down and mediate this before we go to arbitration.

Alderman Radin stated, I was reading recently in one of the papers that this boot project, do we have a cost for this boot project? I believe I was reading about it from New Haven or something that the boots all cost \$1,000 each and they were saying they bought 100 of them and it cost them \$100,000. Do we have to go for that price too? I wish I had cut the article out.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I was actually going to bring that up under the Finance Committee report. We met last week. There was no charge to us from what I understood talking with the gentleman for the actual boot. He took part of the money from the charge. There was no cost to the City for the actual boot.

Alderman Radin stated, I don't know if you saw the article, I don't remember which paper it was in, but the boots were \$1,000 each and they bought 100. Are we going to be recouping that kind of money? If they're not going to cost us anything, then...

Alderman Adamowski stated, I did not see it. I will look into it. We just discussed it at this point, we're not even certain if that is the way we're going to go.

Alderman Radin asked, does he sign a paper that says you don't have to pay for the boots?

Alderman Adamowski stated, it is all drawn up legally through Corporation Counsel.

Corporation Counsel Blake we are in preliminary discussion. They came in at a Finance Committee meeting last week. We haven't signed a contract, they haven't even considered a contract. The members are still looking into whether that's a viable process at this time.

Alderman Radin stated, well if you're going to sign a contract with these people and you're not going to recoup even a small amount over the \$100,000 it's not worth it.

Alderman Adamowski stated, the City does not purchase any boots.

Alderman Radin stated, the other question I have - one of my customers approached me and said that the garbage trucks were picking up the recycling in the garbage trucks with the garbage. They actually looked out the window and saw the truck. Everything on the curb including the bottles was being put into the truck. I know for a fact that they took the boxes that I had put out and cut up small, and they put those with my garbage. I don't know, I did call Tom down at Public Works and he said he was going to speak with somebody. I

believe he did. I hope he did. I can't see them putting the recycling all into the back of the garbage truck.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, they're supposed to have separate trucks. Since you called and Mike Schryver is here, have you heard anything about that?

Mr. Schryver stated, this company does it a little bit differently than ADS. They use the same vehicle. They go out in the first run and pick up the garbage, dump it at our location. The second run they pick up recyclables. The way they do the recyclables is called "single stream" - all the recyclables go into the same garbage truck, are brought to a plant and are sorted and separated there.

Alderman Radin stated, I want to make sure that they're doing that, because from what I understand, the City of Ansonia gets something for the recycling, they get some portion of that. And if they're taking, for instance, my recycling, my boxes, and putting it in with the regular garbage, we are losing a few cents on that.

Mr. Schryver stated, Tom called me right away on that. I did follow the truck. I contacted Winters Brothers and they assured me that's what's going on. I will continue to monitor it.

Mayor Della Volpe stated, we have received several complaints about collection and we are going out to bid within the next several weeks, maybe have a new provider.

Alderman Knapp stated, with all due respect, Mayor, Peck School, you said you wanted it to go to the Land Use and Sales Committee. What purpose would that serve?

Mayor Della Volpe replied, he came and requested assisted living. Would you consider that or do you want to have it remain the same? I said I would ask the Board of Aldermen Land Use, and the Land Use would bring it to the Board of Aldermen and I would bring it back to the developer.

Alderman Knapp asked, wouldn't he have to start all over again if he's going to deviate from the plan? Go to Inland Wetlands Commission, etc.?

Mayor Della Volpe stated, he certainly would but it would have to be a decision made by the Board of Aldermen.

President Sharkey stated, we held public hearings on it last time and he actually originally had talked about apartments. We held public hearings and the neighbors did not want that building turned into apartments. What we did was made a decision instead, the building belonged to the City of Ansonia. The property belonged to the City of Ansonia. We had a large stake in that. We agreed that the most that could be done there was the building could be torn down and three single-family houses built there. So if the person who has it

does not wish to abide by the plan, then the plan is null and void. We have to decide as a Land Use Committee, do we in fact want the building back. He owns the building. If we take the building back, we have to tear it down, so unless a developer comes in to do it. One of the reasons he isn't tearing it down is, he knew going in the amount of asbestos and rehab that the building needed even before it came down. We would have to take a very close look at it. It would be the decision of this Board after they get a recommendation from the Land Use Committee, not Planning and Zoning.

President Sharkey thanked Mayor Della Volpe.

Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

With respect to Communication #4, if you need clarifications on that, we can do it at that time. It's a litigation matter on the U.S. Department of Justice.

As the Mayor said, we are going out in the next week to open bids up for the trash and recyclable collection. Also next week is going to be for the second part of the transfer station so the Board of Aldermen will need to have another meeting of their Public Works Committee to have that in there.

I was in on court the other day with respect to Main Street Development Corporation. They are currently in bankruptcy. We want to try and get our taxes paid. Hopefully we'll get about \$50,000 less than that. Also, the Mayor has asked me and I talked to the trustee, the possibility of maybe during the tenancy of the sale is to clean up across the street - the park there. I've gotten authority from the trustee that if we give them some assurances on worker's compensation, liability and hold harmless that it might do that.

Alderman Marini stated, I have a question about ice cream vendors. I see we've had two applications come up to renew licensing, which obviously is good idea. I understand we don't make too much money off the licenses but the idea is to make sure that they have insurance in place.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, the major thing is that they were starting to come into all of the parks. We just want to be able to monitor these people and make sure they had the liability insurance. That was the concern about that.

Alderman Marini stated, the attractive nuisance idea is that kids see ice cream trucks and of course they don't think twice about running after them into the street. You never know, something bad could happen. The question I have was raised by some ice cream vendors that are licensed in Ansonia. They related to me that they believe that there are a lot of unlicensed trucks making their way into Ansonia. It has happened in the past and they're already seeing it start to happen. My real question was, do we have a way of enforcing it, and if so, can something be done to make sure, since we're right at the start of the season, we make sure that there are no unlicensed trucks.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, if this gets passed tonight it will be Humpty Dumpty and Super Softee. They are two of the three that they can go on the streets and vend on the streets provided they go to the Police Department for their Hawker's License. To get on to Nolan Field and any of the City parks they have to notify the Police Department. They have a list of what vendors are allowed on and not allowed on.

Chief Hale stated, the charge is hawking without a permit and there's a fine attached to the infraction. We have done that in the past. You've got to catch them first.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, they usually monitor themselves.

Corporation Counsel Blake continued, I am waiting, June 28th is the deadline for a grant for open space, I am waiting for the appraisal to be done on the parcel of land near Abe Stone Park. Hopefully next month I'll have information for you.

Tara Kolakowski, Acting Personnel Director

We're going to mediation arbitration with Ansonia Police Department. If you have any questions I'm available.

Alderman Jeanette asked, are you allowed to say how far off you are with these negotiations?

Ms. Kolakowski replied, we're going to mediation arbitration. That's it.

Chief Kevin Hale, Ansonia Police Department

To give you an update on Personnel - we currently have one Officer in the Field Training Program. We have one Officer in the Police Academy right now; he'll be graduating in the next week or two. You have a recruit here tonight and I hope you look favorably on him. I will be talking about him in a little bit. We did have one retirement last week so Mr. Edwards will be replacing the Officer that retired. We won't see him on the street until early next year.

Just a reminder - winter parking rules, even though it's 70 degrees out today and who knows what's going to happen, the rules end March 31st. April 1st we go back to normal parking.

Alderman Stowe asked, how many applicants applied for each one of the positions? It was over 500 wasn't it?

Chief Hale stated, the one that Mr. Edwards is on was almost 600. We've closed that because it's over a year old. We've got another one going that will end,

we're taking applications now through the end of March. People can apply to Police App.com - we do everything online now. It streamlines our process. We do get more applicants through that. We're already over 100 for that.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to close the Public Session; SECONDED by Alderman Beall. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee - Alderman Edward Adamowski

1. Authorization to Pay Bills

Alderman Adamowski MOVED to pay all bills if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Alderman Adamowski stated, we had the meeting on Monday the 5th to discuss the boot program and other tax revenue incentives for us to try to collect past due taxes. We have another meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday the 19th here. We will meet again to discuss other options. I ask that people bring their ideas and open minds so we can do the best we can for the City of Ansonia and find the best way we can to accomplish our goals.

Alderman Stowe asked, what is the back taxes in total with property and motor vehicles?

Alderman Adamowski stated, if I remember correctly, it was four hundred and something and nine hundred and something thousand. We had Bridget here from the Tax Office and she said those numbers do go down once June arrives because people obviously pay them before the end.

Alderman Stowe stated, so it's roughly \$900,000 in property taxes.

Alderman Adamowski stated, \$429,000.

Alderman Stowe asked, is that property, is that right? That's what I've been hearing and I don't want to keep sending rumors around.

Alderman Adamowski stated, this is what she had, what she brought us to the meeting. I would assume that's the most up to date.

Alderman Fainer stated, that one there, that's combined, it's owed since 1997. The \$900-something-thousand is what's this year's.

Alderman Stowe stated, so total, clear it up for me please. Total it's over \$3 million in property taxes but \$900,000 is actually owed for this year still. So in essence we're about \$2,100,000 in arrears? Is that right? It's way over due. As I

go talking to people, I want to make sure I know what I'm talking about. We don't want to be corrected in the minutes, right Mr. Sharkey? Thank you.

President Sharkey stated, if you look closely at those you'll see, especially with the property taxes, they were quite steady in their increase in the year 2010 with the state of the economy, everybody took a large hit. She also explained that with some of the automobile tax, some of it is not collectable. It goes back to 1997. Some of it are people that moved to Arizona or Florida 15 years ago; you're never going to find them. She talked about she could eliminate a lot of those to make the numbers look better, but she still does carry those because every once in a while she gets someone to pay one.

Alderman Adamowski stated, as a matter of fact, a couple of weeks ago somebody came in and they moved out of state and they came back to visit relatives and they didn't realize they had owed money.

Alderman Stowe stated, it's good for us to make sure we're really clear and giving good information at these meetings so that the people really know what kind of work is going on here.

President Sharkey stated, the same with the boot program - it's just one of the options that the Board is looking at. It may or may not go forward.

Alderman Marini stated, I am completely in favor of tax collection, obviously it would increase our methods, make them more effective. Two things - first I would really like to see a breakdown in terms of a timeline of how outstanding the bills are. I don't know if there's anything already put together like a pie chart or something that allows us to actually see visibly how many of them are over the five years, how many over 10, because there is that reality. The problem is the older you get, the less likely you're ever going to see anything. My other comment is really on the boot program. I understand it could be effective in certain circumstances but I really don't believe it's the best way, especially because we're not going after in this case the corporations that are cheating on taxes, we're really going against, really our own residents who are suffering in a bad economy. Although it's obviously, there's really no excuse for not paying the taxes, under the circumstance, beating our residents over the head in that sort of way, I don't think is the best option. I do hope we're able to explore better options.

Alderman Knapp stated, I just wanted to clarify that the boot program is not the only option being explored by the Finance Committee. We are exploring any and all options on how to collect back taxes.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

ARMS Committee - Alderman Scott Nihill

For the month of February ARMS was dispatched to 218 calls; they transported 166 patients, 75 of those were with a medic. They provided mutual aid on 14 calls for Derby and three for Shelton, and we only had to pass one second call, not through any fault of the personnel there - it was because two ambulances were out of service at the time. We really need that new ambulance this year. We collected \$49,395.11.

Just for your information, on March 15th we will have a bid opening for our collection/billing for ARMS. We are very excited as we feel it will bring more money into the City coffers. I would like to commend Chief Jared Heon who did a good job in doing a lot of research with that and getting it together, and our Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake.

Alderman Beall MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Video Recording Committee - Alderman Robert Beall

As I understand now, I believe that Comcast is still playing January's meeting.

Alderman Marini stated, they changed it over last week. The problem was, and we still are working out the bugs, is the conversion. The conversion worked fine the first time but the second time it looks like it was encoded to a CD-rom, unfortunately not to DVD. The lucky thing is that meeting was short so that really doesn't create a problem. It could in the future so we certainly need to maybe schedule another Videotape Meeting to review the procedure that we have set and maybe figure out a way to shore it up to make it even better. It's been getting the job done in terms of actually recording the meetings and eventually getting onto the channel, but it certainly can be better.

Alderman Fainer stated, I thought there was a chain of custody.

Alderman Beall stated, from our understand that within five business days of the taping, the tape is supposed to go to Madeline. Do you have it Madeline?

Mrs. Bottone replied, yes, two.

Alderman Beall continued, and then from there, five days from there we can send it off to Comcast. I know she has a film. The thing was, it wasn't DVD ready from what I understand.

Alderman Marini stated, there has been a hardship in the chain. It hasn't been getting Madeline a copy - that's been fine. The problem was, in between the meeting and getting her the copy, and really we identified this as the tricky part - there's that little card, and the question is, where should it go. A lot of times, after the meeting has been done, there's been confusion who to give it to

to make sure it doesn't get lost. We need to figure out a way - nothing has gone wrong because I basically had the little chip. Obviously we should have a better process than that.

Alderman Fainer stated, I thought we agreed it was going to stay here.

Alderman Marini stated, it should. So for today, we just have to figure out where are we going to...

Alderman Fainer interjected, so the question doesn't arise, where has it been for the last month.

Alderman Marini stated, the meeting has been, for example, we can give it to Madeline a week after it was made. So there's no question where the DVD is. That was sort of what we thought, that Madeline would get a DVD copy. That would be the hard copy. And that's happened. There's been no problem with that. The problem is in between. In that week between the meeting and when she gets the DVD we have to have a better system with that chip.

President Sharkey stated, where is tonight's copy going when we finish? We need to make a decision. In our thing it says it stays in City Hall, so it's got to go somewhere.

Alderman Marini stated, there is no safe box - should we give it right to Madeline? So we'll give it to Madeline.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Jeanette. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Public Works Committee - Alderman David Knapp

The copper roof of the gazebo is finally finished. Electricity has been brought to the actual gazebo as of yesterday. Signs are up. We're still working with the UI Company investigating the lighting of the actual Riverwalk. The contractor is going to finish to the bid specs by April 1st.

President Sharkey stated, UI had been contacted regarding the Light the Night Program. The problem is the Riverwalk is high in elevation and the poles are almost equal. If you drive up North Division Street, the problem is you have to hang the lights down a certain distance from the top of the pole, so they're almost shining sideways and they didn't want to do that. UI is investigating what they can do. Can they put up a different type of lighting - they can't move poles closer to the actual Riverwalk - there is an encroachment area that Army Corps of Engineers will not let you get close to that levy and do any drilling or boring or anything there. We are lucky that as you go further into North Division Street, I don't know whether the levy comes down or the road goes up, but the poles start getting higher. So there is a possibility of them

hanging some lights there some way. They are investigating and will let us know. They are willing to put them up if they can solve the problem.

Alderman Tripp asked, as per your earlier suggestion, are we going to find a way to put a camera on that gazebo?

President Sharkey replied, yes, I have now met with the third person. The first one was out for what he proposed, the second one said he would get back to us, and we do have a proposal from that vendor, we thought we would look into two more vendors. I spoke to another vendor down there and they are also looking into the possibility. We have one last one, the Ansonia Housing Authority had as many as 32 cameras put up on their buildings wherever they are and we'd like to look into that vendor also. The Housing Authority is very happy with the work they did. We'd like to look at what's best for us. We will be looking to the fourth vendor. I'm still waiting for the third one to send me his proposal.

Alderman Stowe MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Economic Development Commission - Alderman John Marini

Members of Economic Development and other City officials have been meeting with Mayor Della Volpe regarding hiring a consultant. In particular we've been speaking to members of other Economic Development Commissions, getting some good ideas and I believe something will be coming forth soon from them.

Next week members of the Commission are going to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation to request a line item transfer - an amount of money out of the salary line item that's designated for this budget year for the Economic Development Director - to hopefully use it toward several projects including Main Street with the storefront rehabilitation program. A dedicated Economic Development website, and also ideas about putting the money toward other Economic Development initiatives that will be spelled out. Finally, members of the Economic Development Commission are working on the 2nd Annual Bike Rally in honor of the inventor of the bicycle - that's going to be held in June this year. They are working hand in hand with the Cultural Commission and members of the business community to guarantee a better event than last year.

Are you aware of the report that Seymour had in the paper today? Alderman Knapp was sending it around. There are tax incentives and all that Seymour is doing.

Alderman Marini stated, exactly, that interested members of the board. I guess the tough thing, of course, is that any tax incentives would have to be coordinated with the budget. Everyone understands, it's a great thing to offer a tax incentive to a business, but obviously it has an implication in the budget.

As we move forward and as we draw the consultant into this, as the group debates more things, that needs to be something on the table. It actually was something we looked into - a TIF program, about a year ago.

Alderman Jeanette MOVED to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Municipal Reports / Annual Reports

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept all municipal and annual reports, dispense with the reading and place them on file; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Tax Refunds

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the refund report and pay the refunds in the amount of \$6,248.24 if found to be correct; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Accidents and Claims

2-12-795 Stanley J. Samakar, III - sidewalk injury

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept the claim and refer it to Corporation Counsel Blake and the Claims Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communications

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept all of the communications, place them on file, and take each one up in its order on the agenda; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #1

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: License Agreement - Humpty Dumpty

Dear President Sharkey,

Mr. Kewalis, who operates the Humpty Dumpty ice cream truck would like to renew his agreement for another two years. Enclosed herein please find his letter as well as the current License Agreement. Please place this letter on your March 2012 agenda for consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours, Kevin M. Blake

President Sharkey stated, this is a total license agreement that allows them to go on City property such as the softball games, the baseball games, the Nolan Field - that sort of thing. It's a standard two-year agreement. Both of these have been long time vendors in the City of Ansonia; it's just basically a renewal.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept and approve the agreement as presented by Corporation Counsel Blake; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe.

Alderman Knapp asked, do they have to carry a placard with them or any type of ...

Chief Hale replied yes, that they have to provide to us proof of a tax ID number, Valley Health Department inspection, insurance, and other documents. They have to have their fingerprints on file and current photograph.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #2

From: Adam Sardinha

Re: Project for Eagle Scout

Honorable Members of the Board of Aldermen:

I am an Eagle Scout Candidate and I am having a problem. My intended project is to recreate a new sign for the David Humphrey's House. I have spoken to Mr. James Tanner, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and to the Historic Commission. They have told me that they feel that it is a good project, but that I need to receive approval from the Historical District Commission before I can proceed.

I have contacted Mary Connors, the Chairperson from the Historical District Commission. She has informed me that she would love to help me but the Commission has not had a quorum in quite a few months. My mother offered to put her name in to be considered as a member of the Historical District Commission. Ms. Connors contacted Ms. Tara Kolakowski and submitted my mother's name for consideration. To date nothing has happened.

Alderman John Marini suggested that I contact this board and see if there is anything that you can do to gain approval for the project as time is passing quickly.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely, Adam Sardinha

President Sharkey stated, the Eagle Scout candidate and his mother are in the audience tonight.

Adam Sardhina stated, my name is Adam Sardhina, I live at 91 Jewett Street in Ansonia. I've been having difficulty meeting with the Historic District Commission. I'm requesting that the Board of Aldermen or a subcommittee of the Board meet and review my project and approve it in place of the Historic District Commission.

President Sharkey stated, we have received your request. Before we open it up for discussion, I'm in support of your project and I'd like to see it go forward. However, we did review it both with Corporation Counsel Blake and the Historic District Commission. It is the opinion of the Zoning Enforcement Officer and the Historic District Commission and the Corporation Counsel that you do have to go there. As much as I would like to see this Board approve it, there is specific language written in the Historic District Commission rules that does not allow us to approve anything in the Historic District.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, he needs to go forward and get a certificate of appropriateness on that from the Historic District Commission.

Alderman Nihill asked, isn't part of his problem that the commission hasn't been able to establish a quorum? Herein lies his problem.

President Sharkey stated, maybe we can request from the Chairman that they call everybody up and call a meeting together. If there's a lack of members, maybe we can appoint members. I can't subvert the rules of the Historic District Commission.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, it's a very simple thing - it's a couple of pieces of paper as to what you want to do. You going from the Board - a majority - they usually, unless it's a really outrageous, approve it. They want to keep that district the way it is, the colors, everything. The other thing you need to look at is it's a sign - the Zoning issue - there are also right-of-way issues that could be involved in this being a State highway. It needs to go in front of that Board first; maybe this Board could write a letter to them.

Alderman Tripp stated, I am sure that Adam is going to stay within the requirements. The problem here is them having a quorum. I can only request that the President maybe contact the Chairman of that Commission and urgently request that they get enough people there to have a quorum. I think that's the stumbling block more than anything else.

Alderman Radin stated, I find this a problem with quite a few of the Commissions; people are being appointed to the boards and they're not

showing up. I think that's the sad part. If you don't have the time and you're very busy and you don't have the time to commit, you should resign from the Board and let somebody else who is interested or maybe has a little bit of extra time to do it. With all our boards this is happening. I would like to see something done where you can ask people if they don't want to be on a board to resign and let somebody get on a board who wants to.

Alderman Tripp MOVED to draft a letter to the Historic District Commission from the Board of Aldermen requesting that they convene at their earliest convenience and notify President Sharkey of the date of their meeting; and if they cannot make a quorum to please notify the Board of Aldermen, and further,

MOVED to notify the Planning and Zoning Commission that we are in favor of this project;

SECONDED by Alderman Nihill.

Alderman Marini added, please note that we are in favor of seeing this Scout carry on his project.

Alderman Fainer asked, what is your deadline on this?

Mr. Sardinha replied, I have to be done by my birthday, which is August 12.

Aldermen Tripp asked, is this a Planning and Zoning matter or is this a Historic District Commission matter?

President Sharkey replied, the sign falls under the District; then to the size, the height, and the placement of the sign that falls to Planning and Zoning. There is a sign regulation.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Mrs. Carol Sardhina stated, he has to go in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals because one of the variances he will need is the front yard, which is 10 feet. Current existing sign is within 3 feet. Once that comes out it has to go to the new regulations and he has to get a variance.

President Sharkey stated, I'm sure you know where he's got to go. I'm sure she knows - she's a veteran of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Alderman Knapp stated, I will AMEND THE MOTION that we send a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals also; SECONDED by Alderman Marini. A voice vote was taken and the AMENDMENT PASSED 14-0.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED 14-0.

Communication #3

From: W. David LeVasseur, State of Connecticut OPM

Re: Financial Audit Report Compliance

Dear Aldermen,

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is required to determine whether audit reports are prepared in accordance with accounting principles and auditing standards that are generally accepted in the United States of America. This authority is granted to OPM by the Municipal Auditing Act (Connecticut General Statutes Sections 7-391 to 7-397), and the Regulations to the Act (Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Section 7-392-1 and Section 7-394a-1).

We have recently reviewed the June 30, 2011 financial audit report for the City of Ansonia, which was audited by the firm of Michaud and Accavallo. The independent auditor has indicated that certain pension disclosures for the City Employees' Retirement Plan is not in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Specifically, the audit firm indicated that the City is not in compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 50, "Pension Disclosures" (an amendment to GASB Statements No. 25 and 27).

Please confirm to this Office by March 21, 2012, that the June 30, 2012 audit report of the City will be in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, including the requirements of GASB Statement No. 50. Continued failure to comply with GAAP will subject the City's report to be referred to the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission for further action.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please contact Bill Plummer at 860-418-6367 should you have any questions.

Sincerely, W. David LeVasseur, Acting Undersecretary, IGP Division

President Sharkey stated, we have a plan here that's called the City Employees Retirement Plan. We recently went to a different accounting firm. That firm found that the one that was handling City Employees Retirement Plan, the actuarial for that was not following some new procedure. We received a letter from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management and the bold print that you see there is that it was addressed to the Board of Aldermen, "please confirm to this office by March 21" that when they file the paper in the June audit, the City will be in compliance with the new generally accepted accounting principles including requirements of a certain statement. All they're doing is creating an accounting practice. The finance department wrote a

suggested draft letter. I have one copy of it here, it's not on our letterhead yet. I will read it to you if you bear with me. It's addressed to W. David LeVasseur, Acting Undersecretary, IGP Division, OPM, Hartford, CT, Re: Audit Report.

Dear Mr. LeVasseur,

The Ansonia Board of Aldermen are in receipt of your letter dated February 21, 2012 regarding the June 30, 2011 financial audit report for the City of Ansonia. The City of Ansonia will replace the current actuarial firm (Pension Plan) because they are not following the actuarial cost method as noted by our auditors. In the future the City of Ansonia will use an acceptable cost method in accordance with GASB 50.

Signed, Gene Sharkey, President, Ansonia Board of Aldermen are

President Sharkey stated, can we just send the letter off? It's a form letter to them saying when our audit comes out in June, we will make sure this plan is in accordance with accepted actuarial practices.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to send the letter; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #4

From: Corporation Counsel Kevin Blake

Re: Proposed Resolution and Settlement Agreement with U.S. Justice Department

Dear President Sharkey,

Please be so kind as to place on the agenda (Executive Session) for your meeting on March 13, 2012 the enclosed proposed Resolution and Settlement Agreement with respect to the United States of America. As you recall, this matter was tabled at your meeting held on February 14, 2012.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours, Kevin M. Blake

President Sharkey stated, this is basically just a form settlement agreement. It's something that the U.S. government is requiring us to do. It is very cut and dry; Shelton is required to do the same thing to meet some requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We were in violation of a section of the Act. This is the agreement. If you wish more information on it we will take it up in executive session. Resolution #2 goes along with this communication.

Resolution #2

Re: United States Justice Department

RESOLUTION

Aldermen Robert Duffus and Edward Adamowski of the First Ward introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Justice Department of the United States of America requests that the City of Ansonia enter into a settlement agreement entitled "Department of Justice Complaint Number 204-14-150" after reviewing a complaint filed regarding a zoning application; and

WHEREAS, the entering into this settlement agreement by the City of Ansonia is in no way to be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by the City of Ansonia;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ansonia agrees to enter into the Settlement Agreement between the United States of America and the City of Ansonia as pertains to Complaint Number 204-14-150 and that the Mayor James Della Volpe and Attorney Thomas Welch are empowered to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of the City of Ansonia.

Alderman Fainer MOVED to accept Communication #4 and ADOPT Resolution #2; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Communication #5
From: Carol Merlone, Superintendent of Schools
Re: Proposed Resolution

Alderman Tripp MOVED to dispense with the reading of Communication #5; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Resignations

1. Edward Phipps - Planning and Zoning Commission / Inland Wetlands Commission

Dear Mayor Della Volpe,

Please consider this letter as my formal resignation from the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as the Inland Wetlands Commission effective February 29, 2012.

I want to thank you for appointment me to these Commissions and I have truly enjoyed working with everyone. It has been an honor and privilege to

serve my community and the City of Ansonia in these voluntary positions. I want to wish my fellow Members of the Commissions all the best.

Sincerely, Edward C. Phipps

Alderman Nihill MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Edward Phipps from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

2. Sandro "Vito" Epifano - Economic Development Commission

Dear Mayor Della Volpe,

Due to family, work and other obligations, I hereby resign from the Ansonia Economic Development Commission. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the Community and to work with others on the Commission.

I wish you and the commission success in the future with economic and community development in the City of Ansonia.

Sincerely, "Vito" Epifano

Alderman Madigosky MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Sandro Epifano from the Economic Development Commission and send him a letter of thanks for his service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

3. Ellen M. Troy - Board of Assessment Appeals

Dear Mayor Della Volpe,

It is with regret that I notify you, that due to health reasons I will no longer be able to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

I truly enjoyed working with the members of the Board and the citizens of Ansonia.

Very truly yours, Ellen M. Troy

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ellen M. Troy from the Board of Assessment Appeals and send her a letter of thanks for her service to the City; SECONDED by Alderman Duffus. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Appointments

Ansonia Police Department

Chief Hale introduced Police Officer candidate Jonathan Edwards. He stated, as I described earlier we had a lengthy process. This list is about a year old now. Because we had openings we spoke to some additional people on the list, and Jon Edwards clearly came out on top. He sailed through the background process and the testing processes. He was approved by the Board of Police Commissioners last week and met with the Mayor. He has come out very favorably. He is a Naugatuck resident in his mid-20s. He has an Associate’s degree in Criminal Justice from Naugatuck Valley Community College and a Bachelor’s degree in Justice and Law from WESTCONN. He comes from a line of public servants - he has a brother that is an Orange Police Officer and another younger brother who is in the Academy right now for Trumbull. I believe there are others in his family as well. We are very happy to have him front of you tonight. If approved, he would start in the Academy on March 30th. Jon will replace a retirement that we had last week. This will get us caught up until next January.

Alderman Nihill MOVED to appoint Jonathan Edwards of Naugatuck, Connecticut as an entry-level Police Officer; SECONDED by Alderman Stowe.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	14		

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absentions.

Applause rang throughout the forum.

Economic Development Commission

Alderman Tripp MOVED to appoint David Casseti of 3 High Acres Road, Epifano replacement, term to expire 2-28-2016; SECONDED by Alderman Radin.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski			X
Duffus			X
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	12		2

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 12 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absentions.

Energy Improvement District

Alderman Beall MOVED to appoint Dave Knapp of 3 Glen Drive, Finnucan replacement, term to expire 12-31-2014; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp			X
Sharkey	X		

TOTALS	13		1
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A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absention.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to reappoint Stephen Blume of 58 Hoinski Way, term to expire 12-31-2013; SECONDED by Alderman Fainer.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin		X	
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	13	1	

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absentions.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to reappoint Francis Tyszka of 18 Shortell Drive, term to expire 12-31-2014; SECONDED by Alderman Nihill.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	14		

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absentions.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Alderman Fainer MOVED to reappoint Michael A. Bettini of 6 Arcadia Circle; term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Marini.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	14		

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absentions.

Inland Wetlands Commission

Alderman Beall MOVED to appoint Michael Bettini of 6 Arcadia Circle (Planning and Zoning Representative), term to expire 12-31-2015; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe	X		
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		

Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	14		

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absentions.

Resolutions

Resolution #1

Re: Charter Revision Re: Budget Process

R E S O L U T I O N
Charter Revision
Re: Budget Process
City of Ansonia

Alderman John Marini of the Seventh Ward introduced the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, The Board of Aldermen seeks a more assertive and meaningful role in establishing Ansonia's annual budget and setting the rate of taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes the importance of engaging taxpayers in the budgetary process; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes that the current budgetary process does not sufficiently address the aforementioned considerations;

HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Ansonia Board of Aldermen, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §7-188 et seq., initiate action for considering the adoption of the following Amendment to Section 42 of the Ansonia City Charter:

Sec. 42 – Budgetary Process

- (a) *Duties of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation:* Each board of the city government, each committee of the Board of Aldermen and each officer of said city, under whose control money is expended, shall, on or before the fifteenth day of January in each year, report to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation of said city an estimate of the amount of money required by said board, or said committee, or said officer, for the next ensuing fiscal year, giving details as far as practicable. Said Board of Apportionment and Taxation shall prepare and submit to the Board of Aldermen, at a meeting thereof to be held on the third Tuesday of February, I each year, an estimate of the amounts required by each department of city government for the ensuing year, giving particulars as far as possible, and recommending appropriations for all the city expenses for said year; and also recommending

such tax on the polls and ratable estates within the limits of as said Board of Apportionment and Taxation shall deem necessary to meet such expenses for said fiscal year. Said Board of Apportionment and Taxation shall cause said estimate to be published in a daily newspaper of general circulation in said city at least once, on or before the fourth Tuesday of February in each year.

Said board may, subsequent to the first day of July transfer all or any part of any appropriation to any existing category item or item of appropriation or may make such transfer of funds to a newly established category or item of appropriation.

Immediately after an annual budget is adopted, as described in sub-section (c) of this section, the Board of Apportionment and Taxation shall meet and lay a tax on the Grand List sufficient in addition to the other estimated yearly income of the city, to pay the expenses and anticipated appropriations of the city for the coming year, and also to absorb any deficit of the city at the end of the preceding fiscal year.

- (b) *Duties of the Board of Aldermen:* Said Board of Aldermen shall hold a meeting on the fourth Tuesday of February in each year, and may adjourn the same from time to time to a day not later than the third Monday of May following, and at said meeting, or any adjournment thereof, it shall hear all parties who may desire to be heard relative to any alterations in said estimates, appropriations, and tax rates, and may make any alterations in said estimates, appropriations, and tax rates, and such additional appropriations as it shall deem proper. Said board having made such alterations as it desires shall prepare a statement of appropriations and tax rates which it proposes to make and levy, and cause the same to be published in a daily newspaper of general circulation in said city, at least three days before the third Monday of May of each year. Said board shall hold a meeting on the third Monday of May in each year, and at such meeting may make such further alterations in said estimates, appropriations, and tax rates.
- (c) *Adoption of the Budget:* The Board of Aldermen's statement of appropriations and tax rates will be adopted as an annual budget in the following manner:
- i. In the event that the Board of Aldermen establishes a tax rate with a millage increase of one mill or less, the Board's statement of appropriations and tax rates shall be deemed approved and adopted as the annual budget; or
 - ii. In that event that the Board of Aldermen establishes a tax rate with a millage rate of over one mill, adoption of the City

government and Board of Education budgets shall be adopted by public referendum.

- (d) *Public Referendum:* The referendum vote, if required, shall be held not less than seven (7) days or more than eighteen (18) days thereafter. Further referendum votes, if required, shall be held not less than seven (7) or more than eighteen (18) days after the prior referendum vote. Vote shall be by machine ballot.

Voting shall be confined to one central polling location within the City of Ansonia.

The questions to be voted on at such referendum vote shall be presented on the ballot as follows:

- a. Shall the General City Budget, as recommended by the Board of Aldermen, of (dollar amount) for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?
- b. Shall the Board of Education Budget, as recommended by the Board of Aldermen, of (dollar amount) for the fiscal year (specify year) be adopted?

The voters shall be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No". If both budgets are rejected after revisions by the Board of Aldermen, both budgets shall be resubmitted to the ballot. In case of further rejections, the aforesaid process shall be repeated until said budgets are accepted, or else until the budget is adopted in accordance with sub-section (c)(i).

If only one of the aforesaid budgets passes, that budget shall be deemed to be adopted. The budget question that is rejected shall be resubmitted to the ballot by said board and resubmitted again after further rejection and further revision by the Board of Aldermen until said budgets are accepted, or else until the budget is adopted in accordance with sub-section (c)(i).

If the complete budget is not adopted by June 14th the City shall send out tax bills based on the same taxation figures and adjusted mill rate of the prior fiscal year, which would include the new revenues, debt service, and legal obligations for the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1st. After the complete budget is passed the balance of the tax bills shall be sent out based on any subsequent increase.

Absentee ballots will be available for the aforesaid special meeting of the Board of Aldermen by referendum. Copies of all budgets and revised budgets shall be available at each polling place.

Upon approval of this section (as per current law) this section of the City Charter shall become the procedures for preparing budget for the July 1 to June 30 fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013.

Alderman Marini explained, I have introduced this resolution concerning Charter Revision and an amendment to the budget process. To start off, hopefully this is a first step, not a final step by any means, to improving the budget process. To clear up some confusion, first, what does passage of this resolution mean? The charter cannot be revised by the Board of Aldermen alone. The State Statute that this resolution alludes to requires that this Board pass by 2/3 majority a resolution initiating Charter revision. In this case it talks about specific revision, but it could just as well be something that says we want Charter revision. From there, the Mayor would be responsible for appointing a Charter Revision Commission that would be able to consider this proposed amendment and change it in any form it wants, and also consider any other revision to the Charter.

I think Mr. Norman a member of the board of taxation disagrees with the substance of this proposed amendment, but he himself sees that there is reason for an amendment to the Charter in general. This Board has talked about many different changes that we'd like to see with the ordinances and the actual Charter in the past several years. This resolution in no way comes from dissatisfaction with the members of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. I think they've certainly done a very good job. They have shown an amazing amount of hard work, and every budget process they've sent is extremely thorough and extremely diligent in terms of keeping our City's finances in order.

What this is about is an issue that I've alluded to as far back as when this board proposed and 8.4% tax increase back some years ago. I feel this board needs to step up as the elected officials of the city and take responsibility for the finalization of the budget. Mr. Norman, a member of the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, said it himself, when the Board of Aldermen, when we make the budget, there are so many unknowns. Indeed, I agree. I think many members of this Board have also expressed, we are in the dark when we are putting our budget together. We're doing the best we can with the information we have and then we're passing it to an appointed board. It's actually pretty convenient for elected officials to have an appointed board make the final call. In fact I'd say it's pretty comfy to be able to sort of have that as a shield in terms of what the final decision is. I think as elected officials we need to do better than that. I think as the elected officials, this Resolution #1 calls for sort of a flip-flop. Instead of Apportionment and Taxation getting the budget last and finalizing it, the Board of Aldermen will get the budget last. Apportionment and Taxation would have the first crack at it. First of all it would flip-flop the positions that Apportionment and Taxation and the Board of Aldermen have, so that we would be finalizing the budget in May, rather than Apportionment and Taxation.

Second of all I really believe the public should have some say and some voice in the budget. Of course there are a lot of complications that come with the referendum. In taking a look at other systems it's pretty easy to see what those flaws could be. For example in Seymour you see referendums that can go on and on and on. One point that was raised earlier was, well what do you do if you can't get something approved? What if one part's approved and the other part isn't? I don't find that that's impossible. First of all I think it's for us to resolve here anyway. I think if we did have a Charter Revision Committee we would be looking at every angle figuring out how to perfect it. I don't think it's cause for alarm, Seymour does have something in place that deals with that exact same question. A lot of the language I took for this resolution is based on what Seymour does and what similar towns do. They have a system - they are able to levy a tax rate even if there are ongoing referendums.

More importantly one thing I put in there that's unique that they did not have in a lot of other areas is the caveat that if there is an increase in budget and that results in a mill increase of one mill or less, it does not require a referendum. This gives a good amount of leverage to the Board of Aldermen and to the Board of Taxation to avoid the referendum process in case a) it's not necessary at all, or b) it becomes overly burdensome. In the event that there is a substantial tax increase - which I do believe is over a mill - and that speaks to my opposition to the budget proposed this year - that there is an opportunity for the public to be involved one way or the other. I know Alderman Duffus raised this precise issue at our last meeting, sort of saying, you know, people may want to have an increase in their taxes. I think Alderman Duffus' question assumes a little too much, I agree. I think it should be put to the people. They should have the opportunity to weigh in, yes or no.

As we have seen, there are perfectly valid reasons why sometimes the taxes have to go up. What I want to do is involve the public in that dialogue. I would like to involve the public officials as much as possible in that dialogue, which explains part of my configuration of putting us as finalizing the budget, and that explains the other part - in case it goes over a mill, allowing them to weigh in on what would be a substantial tax increase.

I would love to have a substantive talk over how we feel. This could be made better, but either way I'd like to see us move on to the phase where a Charter Revision Committee could be talked about, and a Charter Revision Committee could take the resolution I made and set it aside completely and start from scratch. It does not tie anyone to anything - although I did believe as I promised at the last meeting I wanted to take the first step, I wanted to sort of throw the first pitch out. I think it's good to have the start of a dialogue.

President Sharkey stated, one thing is, I question the 2/3 vote. I am going to ask Corporation Counsel Blake to look at that. When I read it, I thought it took a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote. We need to research that see what it entails.

Mr. Norman stated, I was named a few times in the dissertation and I would like the opportunity for a rebuttal. First of all our charter was adopted in 1906 it was written in the 1800s. It was taken from the New York City charter and modeled after that. They say "modeled" but it was copied. And in there, it wasn't for the convenience of the Board of Aldermen that a nonpartisan board was appointed to approve the budget, it was to keep the politics out of it. Now, I'm talking about 1800s and early 1900s politics and I know we don't have anything like that today. That was the reason. It wasn't for the Board of Aldermen to be able to hide behind the Board of Apportionment and Taxation, it was to take the politics out of the budget process, because it was that serious. I thank you for your time.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I'm going to be brutally honest with the public and open. First thing we need to get out to the public what Mr. Marini's statement was, I was on the Finance Committee with the supposed 8.4% tax increase. Let me reiterate what we said back then, we will say it again - this Board never, ever proposed an 8.4% tax increase. The problem was, there was no accountability with what went on in the room that night. The State of Connecticut cut \$2 million. Do you recall that? And we, all five of us that were there that night, agreed to send it on with the \$2 million in the budget to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation and they would then cut it out upon us getting it. We had all favorable recommendations that Ansonia was going to get the money; it was just held up. So this year, we smartened up a little. Now we're accountable for what we say in that room, and we each have a vote, okay? We all agree on these votes all the way through to the last night. And we come here to our Aldermen meeting, and there's four no votes. We were all against no tax increase, right? You want no tax increase. Mr. Stowe has called residents in my Ward for no tax increase. "I want no tax increase." Let me ask you something, take the money for the Board of Ed out. You're at a 1.45% tax increase. So can everybody sit here and say you want no tax increase when there's going to be anyways, with that money in there or without it. Somebody explain that to me.

Alderman Marini stated, I can explain it. You'll see very clearly if you go back to the minutes from the last meeting. This has been recognized in a public forum that a tax increase is sometimes completely necessary. I outlined very specifically, notice I didn't take issue with what Alderman Sharkey said. There were two proposals. My increase would result in a tax increase - just a lower tax increase than the one that was proposed. I did it because I believe that we were in the dark the time and that we needed to act in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. So I don't take issue with your characterization of that completely, except there was a disagreement the night before. New information came to light the week before that meeting that changed the playing field. That new information talked about money coming from the State to the Board of Education - a substantial amount of money - over half a million dollars worth of money. So a special meeting was called for a Monday immediately before our Board of Aldermen meeting, and at that meeting we raised those concerns. I raised a counter proposal. Phil Tripp and I voted for

that proposal favorably, the rest of the Democrats on the board voted against it. That forms the basis of why at least Alderman Tripp and I voted against the budget. That explains that. In terms of what you raised for Alderman Stowe, I'll let Alderman Stowe get into that. I certainly am of the position that sometimes a tax increase is needed, but in this particular situation, I do not think it was fiscally responsible as possible with the information that we had on the table.

I think you've sort of mutated the discussion a little bit about the 8.4 percent tax increase. I think you're wrong there. It was proposed; obviously it wasn't finalized. I agree to that. But I also recall and any vote you and Alderman Sharkey, and the minutes will reflect, that he stated that every increase was necessary and justified. And that was said and it's black and white.

I don't say that it's a lack of hard work, I believe really it's a situation we're thrust into because of the way the budget process is structured. That we don't have all the information on the table and it makes us make decisions with misinformation, out of fear, out of speculation. And then if we can change the process so that we're finalizing it closer to budget time, we not only can have more information when we make the decision, but we will have the leverage to actually negotiate with departments. You can say, well don't we have some leverage now with departments? The answer is no, because we're not setting a real budget. So say we were to somehow negotiate concessions with a department. That would all be thrown under the bus as soon as Apportionment and Taxation gets it because nothing we do is binding. I am not being so arrogant to say that my way that I proposed is the best way and it's got to be the way. What I'm saying is we need to change the process and we need to start the dialogue.

Maybe this isn't the answer. Maybe another answer would be having the Board of Apportionment and Taxation be elected officials rather than appointed officials. That's what they do in Seymour, I believe. With all due respect to Mr. Norman, he is one of the most hard working members of any commission; I respect his opinion on many things and I respect his role that he plays in the Board of Apportionment and Taxation. But I do not believe that it avoids politics. I honestly believe that it is a bit of an insulation and avoids this Board of making the decisions that we were elected to be here for. Talk to the residents in any Ward at any time and the budget is going to be one of the top things that they talk about. And yet we, the elected officials are not doing anything more than putting together a proposed budget. I think Alderman Adamowski made some fair points; I think he made some mischaracterizations. And in particular, I am very offended by the allegation that we agreed on every single point. We agreed up to that last vote. To that point you're right, and that's why I recognized in living color as Alderman Sharkey read, that I respect the hard work that you in particular did on the budget and to be slapped with that, I mean that's...

Alderman Adamowski stated, so on a closing note, you're okay with a 1.4 percent tax increase? Because that's what your last vote...

Alderman Marini stated, I wanted to avoid it. And...

Alderman Adamowski stated, no, that's what your last vote stood for. Take out the Board of Education, you're okay with 1.4.

Alderman Marini stated, you are trying to get me into a talking...

Alderman Adamowski stated, I'm not trying to get you into anything.

President Sharkey called for a point of order. We are not going to do this across the table. The decorum in the meeting is to address the Chair; one person has the floor at a time and that's the way we're going to handle it.

President Sharkey stated, John, I think you have to agree that even at the 1.45 every other department you were in favor and you voted yes for every department the way we were funding them.

Alderman Marini stated, my budget would have resulted in an increase.

President Sharkey stated, every department that we voted - the Police, the Library, the Fire, ARMS, everything you voted yes on every single part of the budget.

Alderman Marini stated, if you take a look back, there is no ambiguity.

President Sharkey stated, there was none. You voted yes on every department. Am I correct, Mr. Tripp?

Alderman Tripp stated, to answer your question, I was more than happy to be in agreement with Mr. Fainer and Mr. Knapp, I enjoyed working with all of you through the Finance process. Yes, we were almost in locked step through just about every department. I respect and admire the work that Mr. Fainer did at ARMS, worked us through that process with minimal increases. I respect the work the Fire Department did, minimal increases at the Fire Department. I was agreeing with everybody. Our only stumbling block came at the Board of Education and we just had a different view of seeing how that State grant should be used. That was the difference of opinion, which we diverged at that last point and there were two different proposals. Now, if I could just add one more sentence. No tax increase is optimal or wanted. That's not why I'm here. I was elected to try and make city government as efficient as possible and to not have an increase in the tax burden of residents of the City of Ansonia. Having said that, with what we were confronted with - unfunded mandates from the State of Connecticut, union obligations and other ratcheting up effects of other parts of the budget including especially the Board of Education, we had no choice but we were forced into some type of mill rate increase. Begrudgingly, I am unhappy about it, I do not like it but it's just the way the system worked. I am still here to keep it at a minimum mill rate increase.

President Sharkey stated, my statement was, every other department other than the Board of Education, we were in agreement.

Alderman Tripp stated, yes, sir.

President Sharkey stated, whatever level we were funding, Fire Department, no increase, two new officers, whatever we were doing. Every department, the Library for the additional people, we were all in agreement. And it would have resulted in some increase.

Alderman Tripp stated, unfortunately, yes.

President Sharkey stated, our disagreement was in the amount of the increase. I need to clarify something. John, you said, we don't put together a real budget. Those were your exact words just now. You used those figures when it was the 8.4 percent. You said, we sent on a real budget with an 8.4 percent increase. Now you're saying the Board of Aldermen doesn't put forth a real budget.

Alderman Marini stated, that's a mischaracterization. That's a science fiction way of talking about it...

President Sharkey stated, you used the words "real budget." I think that everything we did in all the meetings we ran, we put forth a real budget. We might have disagreed on the amount of the tax mill increase. If that hadn't happened, we would have sent out a real budget. We have to feel that our sending on to them is a real budget. It's certainly not a smokescreen. With every department that we met with, with all the work that went into it, with all the discussions - that was a real budget.

Alderman Marini stated, it was the best budget to be made, I think, at that point in time. It's the best budget that could be made when you're in the dark and your hands are tied behind your back.

President Sharkey stated, I take offense to the words "real budget". Why didn't we use those same terms that we were in the dark, that we did the best that we could, when it was the 8.4 percent. I mean, that was plastered all over Ansonia on billboards and everything else that the Board of Aldermen did an 8.4 percent. And it was the best we possibly could do at the time with the information that we had. It was totally misconstrued and thrown back to us.

Alderman Fainer stated, I was on the Finance Committee, Bill, Eddie, John, Gene. If that article in the paper didn't come out from Governor Malloy - did we all not vote unanimously to send that budget with \$600,000...

Alderman Marini stated, if that never came out it would have took a different course.

Alderman Fainer stated, you can't say that you weren't on board with it. We voted unanimous on that budget.

Alderman Marini stated, and I'm trying, at length, to spell it out again and again.

Alderman Radin stated, I would like to say to Mr. Adamowski that I voted no. I was one of the four that voted no. I was not on the Finance Committee. My feelings from voting now was because when I heard, the day I was at that Finance Committee and was very happy with going ahead with it, but the next morning on the news I heard that they were getting that money. That's when I changed my mind and voted no. I don't believe that you should have said it that way. I was not on the Finance Committee, I was using my own information and using my own mind to decide the way that I voted. I wasn't going political or anything like that. I don't want you to feel that because I'm a Republican that I voted no. I voted no because I felt that because they were getting the money from the State, that we could go with the lower amount.

Alderman Adamowski stated, absolutely not - I didn't even mention your name.

Alderman Radin stated, you didn't mention my name but you said four votes and I happen to be one of the four.

Alderman Adamowski stated, I wasn't referring to you voting negative as far as what the conversation was. You voted no on your own principles. You have every right to vote however you want to.

President Sharkey stated, Joan, everyone knew you weren't a member of the Committee and during the meetings you never made yourself known where you stood on it. So I agree.

Alderman Duffus stated, John, one of your statements regarding Charter Revision is that if it goes above one mill that you want to have this... but you yourself agreed to a 1.4 increase in the mill. So that doesn't make any sense at all, John. Honestly you are being irresponsible in planning the City's budget. You are being absolutely irresponsible. If you forecast the future of our City and you [inaudible] yourself that the senior citizens won't be in favor of the school budget because they're concerned about the present as I'm concerned about the future. You are absolutely playing politics. The election is over, John.

Alderman Marini stated, thank you Alderman Duffus, you are reading into this a lot. I want to have the people have an opinion. Say in this case let's say it was the 1.4 that was put together. First of all, I'd want it to be known that I'm the one that proposed the 1.4 and not an elected board that I could hide behind and say, "not me". Second of all, I want to have the opportunity to have the residents actually weigh in. It allows anybody to make their case. It allows the Board of Education to make their case as to why the money is needed, it allows the city to make their case why the money is needed, and it allows citizens to

get more involved in the process and to really understand what's going on. The process we have doesn't allow that. It doesn't allow for us to really be accountable for what finally comes out at the end of the process. It doesn't allow the residents any voice at all. I think you talk to residents and asked them if they would like the opportunity to have a vote - it's it geared in a way to hold us accountable and to make residents involved in the process.

Mr. Norman stated, this information is again being handed out. In the charter there are public meetings that have to be held. I held a public meeting at the high school with over 400 residents over last year's budget.

Alderman Marini stated, and ask them if they would like to vote. Ask those 400 people.

Mr. Norman stated, it was all well and good - they had their right to voice their opinion. If they didn't agree with the board's decision after that, then they have the right at election time to do whatever they felt was possible to change who made that point or who approved that point.

President Sharkey stated, we are talking here about politics and we're taking politics out of the equation, when in fact we're putting politics into the equation because all anybody has to do in this economy is say, "I'm going to vote for no tax increase!" Then, Sharkey's getting voted out and the other guy's getting voted in. So this is now all anybody has to do - say "I'm going to vote for no tax increase." John, you're putting politics right in it - you're putting more politics in it.

Alderman Stowe stated, I haven't interrupted anybody and I would appreciate the same respect. That meeting, Mr. Norman, I was there. This isn't civil discourse. When I was at that hearing two weeks before the date of the public hearing but they got changed. A lot of people didn't show up because they didn't know when the date was. Why that happened, I have no idea. But Mr. Norman was there and I was trying to speak at that hearing. The Board of Education heckled me because I had formed a reputation for myself as Axe the Tax. Then I went to speak and he was telling me, "your time's up." I'm done with that. The Board of Apportionment and Taxation has done an excellent job - we have a bunch of people on that board that are exceptional number crunchers and I think they do outstanding.

But as far as this public referendum goes, I sat there and I didn't have a vote, I wasn't on the board of finance, have and I sat and listened to all the problems that the City of Ansonia has. I'm a resident and I believe I'm a team player and I would like to see all the things that we need be had. When I started calling people up again, because that's how I got elected I went knocking on their doors saying, "what would you like from your official" - and that is the missing ingredient that the Board of Apportionment and Taxation has. They do not have to get reelected by their public; they don't have to really answer to the public. We do. We have to answer. And those people told me, "I can't survive; I can't

pay my bills." I'm talking to people that are 45 years old, both working, and telling me it costs them money to pay their bills every month. What do we do for them? I think it's a good idea that they get to vote on the tax. Some of us have been here so long that we forget who we work for. The Aldermen work for the people; they don't work for the government of the City as far as worrying about how people get paid. There's a governor in Wisconsin, Scott Walker, who managed to fix his budget and everything is working out there and they're trying to throw him out of office right now. This system is broke here. Either we're going to get economic development in the city and get some businesses, or we are going to choke the life out of the citizens. They can't afford this. Proof is 600 people applied for a policeman's job. We've got \$3 million in back taxes. All the indications are there; this is a failing system.

President Sharkey stated, I listened to everything and you're talking all over the map here. You're talking about economic development you're talking about what happened at the meeting...

Alderman Stowe interjected, Mr. President it all fits together. It's just like furloughs, it's just like ...

President Sharkey interjected, Charlie, the words out of your mouth were, you didn't like to be interrupted. Thank you.

Alderman Stowe stated, okay. I apologize.

President Sharkey continued, we've got all different things. We're talking now about the proposals we did when we brought the budget up. We're talking about how to fix remedies for everything else. We need to address what we're doing with this piece of paper in front of us here.

What I would like to recommend - I'm just throwing it out there you people vote which ever way, you make a motion, you do whatever you do. I think this is the single most important Charter change there has been in the City of Ansonia in decades - this being proposed right here. This doesn't need to be decided by six people that he appoints or five people that he appoints, this needs to be decided by the Board of Aldermen what happens to this proposal and how it needs to be changed. I think this proposal should go first to the Finance Committee of which two people are already here. You can make your points at the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee should look at this and rehash it. Look at it. Decide what needs to be done with it. I can tell you a change already that I would propose to have here. In here it says you vote either yes or no on each side of the budget. As a person who worked in a town where they had this kind of a budget and it didn't work, they now allow them to vote "no too high" or "no too low" or they vote yes. Because people that wanted more money in the education system if they voted no, the budget gets turned down and there's a written specifically that every time it came back from a referendum it had to be lowered not raised and certain people wanted certain things, but on the municipal side and so forth.

So you're allowed to vote for the budget, yes, or you were allowed to vote no because the municipal was too high, or no because it was too low. There are many ways this could be tweaked. But it should be the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen are the people that have all the power that is written in that big book that's sitting over there that goes on for pages. They should look and they should decide what's best. They, the Finance Committee, can work this out over time. Then they can bring it back and then this group can decide to take it to Charter revision. Because if we just decide to go to Charter revision, those six people or eight people are going to look at every single thing that's in the Charter and not just this. This is important to us. This changes the financial structure of the City of Ansonia. My recommendation is that it goes to the Finance Committee, the Finance Committee can take it's time. They can hold public hearings. We can find out what the people want. You can hold public hearings on this, you can bring the people in and the people can say they are either in favor of it or against it maybe they have other suggestions. That's where I think it should go not to a Charter revision. We don't even know tonight and haven't gotten an answer yet whether it's a 3/4 vote or 2/3 vote. I swear some place in there I thought it's a 3/4 of vote

Corporation counsel Blake stated, I think it's two thirds.

President Sharkey continued, okay. That's a recommendation. We need to do something with it.

Alderman Marini stated, I think it's a fair proposal. I think that's certainly we want to take our time. One thing I'm worried about is that I don't want to be too timid and have it basically died off in committee. I also know that no matter what we do, say we do propose something by two thirds, the Mayor will still have to appoint the Charter Revision Committee and they will still have the ability to take a look at everything. And they may throw it out and do something else. However that doesn't mean your points are wrong about taking our time. And I like some of the ideas you mentioned. As I said this is a first step. I don't mean it to be a final step. I've never said that.

President Sharkey stated, John you've worked with this Finance Committee. They haven't been timid. You were part of it, Aldermen Tripp was a part of it. I think we can take a good look at this, I think we'll have our discussions and our arguments over certain points.

Alderman Marini stated, I trust that the members won't drag it out, so I'd say moving it to the Finance Committee is the best way to go.

Alderman Knapp stated, if I was given the opportunity to be recognized, I was going to make the recommendation that we send it to the Finance Committee.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to refer Resolution #1 to the Finance Committee;
SECONDED by Alderman Tripp.

President Sharkey stated, we are sending this as a starting point to the Finance Committee. We are sending the proposal there.

Alderman	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Adamowski	X		
Duffus	X		
Stowe		X	
Tripp	X		
Jeanette	X		
Mott	X		
Fainer	X		
Beall	X		
Radin	X		
Madigosky	X		
Nihill	X		
Marini	X		
Knapp	X		
Sharkey	X		
TOTALS	13	1	

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 13 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absentions.

Unfinished Business

Alderman Nihill stated, I saw Mike Shryver duck out a few minutes ago and I was hoping to get this to him. I brought up last month the lights in the municipal parking lot. Sean Rowley was the representative last month. I was down there again and we still have many, many lights out in the municipal parking lot. It's a safety problem. Can we get that addressed?

President Sharkey stated, let me check into that. I think all lights in the city, if I'm not mistaken, we actually lease from United Illuminating. I think they bring in a contractor and replace all the bulbs. We have to notify them and they'll come and do it.

New Business

Alderman Tripp stated, I had a constituent resident request. Unfortunately Mr. Shryver is not here in the room. There is an old, rusty street sign on Elizabeth Street; it's not the new, blue sign. There is brush growing literally out onto the roadway which makes traffic ability a problem. Mr. Mayor, if I may give this to you could you give it to Mr. Schryver in the morning please. Thank you.

I was speaking with some residence up on Highland Terrace where Mayor Adanti lived. The gentleman told me, and I don't mean to delve into somebody else's neighborhood, his mother lives in the vicinity of 150 Howard Avenue and

he was complaining about the trash piled up next to his mother's house. If somebody could help out with that, I would appreciate it.

I want to shout out a bunch of thank you's. First thank you to Jodie Mozdzer. There was an article in today's Valley Independent Sentinel. She wrote a very nice article about Walden's property behind Colony Pond and Abe Stone Park in Ansonia. Thanks to Jodie for a very nice article. I understand that Aldermen David Knapp has done a lot of work on this and thank you for forwarding that Sir.

I would like to publicly, very respectfully request of the grant writer that I did read in the paper last week that the State of Connecticut has approximately \$5 million in grants. Once again, respectfully request that she pursue those \$5 million in grants for open space. I just want to leave a quote, I didn't make this quote up, it's a very old quote, "there will always be more people but there will never be more land". It's a very precious resource for us that if we could try and preserve a little bit it would be a good thing.

Eileen Krugel, Grant Writer, stated, thank you for pointing that out first of all, Mr. Stowe stopped by on Friday and also pointed out that the open space grant did open. I just want to make this board aware that there is a match from the city, so if we're going to pursue anything, when the appraisal comes in, we would have a better idea of what money the city would have to come up with to match and move forward with the application. In the past, I've been questioned thoroughly as to why I move ahead with things that have a match and I'm not showing where the match is coming from. So that is something that you guys want to consider as to where you want to match things if you have other properties you want to consider. The grant cycle ends June 28, it's quick.

President Sharkey stated, we need appraisals on these things is what we need. The land use committee was looking for an appraisal of the land so they knew where it stood.

Alderman Tripp stated, give us the number and then the board can make a decision on it. We can't operate blind, we don't know if it's one dollar or \$1 million.

President Sharkey stated, we need, I think, three appraisals.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, and then this one we need what is called a yellow appraisal. We've already got Sheehy and Associates, I gave it to him a couple of weeks ago. He said it's a little more difficult because they go by the U.S. government appraisal forms. Once I have that I will contact Mr. Knapp to get a meeting very quickly so that it can be in front of this board next month.

Alderman Knapp stated, and then we work in a sit and talk, we don't even have a price on the table, and then I was going to suggest a walk, walk the property, and that would be open to all of the Aldermen.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, I don't know what the process is maybe we can have someone on this board start working on the grant.

Ms, Krugel stated, we probably could do some point. But if we're not going to have funds to match it, as you're going through the budget process here, and I don't know how you want to pursue it or how you want to proceed at that point.

Alderman Tripp stated, once again are we talking \$1000 or are we talking \$300,000?

President Sharkey stated, we couldn't get the gentleman at the meeting that night to even give us a ballpark figure. Alderman Stowe was there and he knows we couldn't get the gentleman at the meeting that night to even give us a ballpark figure. We were looking at it. We couldn't get him to give us anything.

Alderman Tripp stated, reading this article, maybe I'm a little bit naïve. The man, Mr. Walton, said he wants the city to have this property. So it seems like he's a little bit flexible.

Alderman Knapp stated, he seems to be a reasonable person; a reasonable man.

Corporation Counsel Blake stated, for next month you will have the appraisal in front of you.

Alderman Tripp stated, once again, Mr. President, I appreciate her tenacity.

Alderman Stowe stated, one of the reasons that we decided to pursue this, is this land is adjacent to the Castle Lane subdivision which, as far as I know, is in court right now trying to overturn Planning and Zoning's decision not to allow it there. If that doesn't get purchased by the City, it's possible that they may be looking to get it. So that's why we don't know if we're going to be able to afford it in the budget or not. We are going to pursue it through its course. Then we're going to decide.

President Sharkey stated, the money that comes for these purchases would probably come out of the fund balance account, if we had access in the fund balance account. As a member of the School Building Commission, I can tell you we had to earmark a good proportion of our fund balance, right down to the state minimum, we had to put aside for the roofs on the schools. The state would not consider us for their project unless we were committed to that amount of money. Not that we have to spend a dime of it, but we had to earmark that money and say, it's not in the fund balance - we've earmarked it to the side for the State of Connecticut for the roof project. If we didn't do that, we would've been missing out on millions of dollars of refund from the state. So our only choice was, and we have earmarked it, I'm pretty sure this board voted to send their recommendation on to the Board of Apportionment and

Taxation that we earmark that fund balance. Yes, we can do matching funds, but there isn't a lot that we have. Let's just say that this piece of property was a half a million dollars, then you're adding half a million dollars to the budget in order to purchase it. The one up on Pulaski Highway was several million dollars. We would be adding that money to the budget to do that

Alderman Knapp stated, one of the positives is, talking with Mr. Waldron, he is not looking for the money all at once. He is willing to spread it out if that works for the city.

President Sharkey stated, we are discussing those options with him.

Alderman Nihill stated, the ARMS Commission is looking at a couple of ordinance changes - I'll pass it out. We are just looking for a motion at this point to send this to the Ordinance Committee for review and possible action.

Alderman Duffus MOVED to send the proposed ordinance changes for ARMS to the Ordinance Committee; SECONDED by Alderman Radin. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

Executive Session

None observed.

Adjournment

Alderman Beall MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Mott. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 14-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen