



# CITY OF ANSONIA BOARD OF ALDERMEN Special Meeting – August 14, 2013

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## *Call to Order*

The Special 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  
Peter Marcinko, D1 - present  
Charles Stowe, R2 - present  
Philip Tripp, R2 - present  
Kevin Mott, D3- present  
Joseph Jeanette, D3 - absent  
Jerome Fainer, D4 - absent

Anthony DeLucia, D4 - present (7:19)  
Howard Madigosky, D5 - present  
Joan Radin, R5 - present  
Scott Nihill, D6-absent  
John Marini, R7 - present  
David Knapp, D7 - present  
Gene Sharkey, D6 - present

President Sharkey declared a quorum of 10 present, 4 absent.

Alderman Knapp MOVED to accept the call of the meeting; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 10-0.

## *Discussion of Bond Proposal*

President Sharkey noted that he brought extra copies of the parking lot plan for the Ansonia Nature Center. He also has a letter from Southwest Conservation District sent to Donna Lindgren in November outlining the reason the pond at the Ansonia Nature Center has to be dredged. There is a great amount of silt, it has to be hauled offsite. There is enough money in our estimate to do the pond dredging and hauling the silt offsite.

President Sharkey distributed an updated copy of the proposed bond issue to date. He also shared the latest update he received from Bond Counsel Mr. Fasi. Last night when we left we were at \$4,993,975 - that is on this sheet with the changes we discussed last night. Today, Mr. Fasi allocated some of the debt administration by a percentage to each category. The more the category is, the higher the debt administration was. Energy Conservation was in at \$1,198,000

and he added \$28,000 to that. Roads and City Parking was only \$483,000 so he only added \$12,000 to that. He is trying to spread it across. If the citizens vote for some but not other questions, we would still have enough money allocated for the debt administration.

Alderman Stowe stated, each category represents one question for each person to vote on. The Police Department land purchase, I don't understand why it's not up with the Police Station. I'm concerned that there are certain things here that really have to be done, and I'm afraid the way the current pulse of the people is, anything that looks like it's recreational they may want to think they can live without it. If we have something combined with it that's really important it may get voted out.

Mr. Fasi chose these categories. Looking at Energy Conservation; that's a money-saving thing. HVAC is money-saving at ARMS. The Police Station - the two large items there are the HVAC boiler and the windows. All energy conservation. We have the Library windows and heating system. The others were the roofs.

Public Safety - the only thing we had in there was school security and the Police Station land purchase would be - the Police Station is for public safety. It really didn't fit. It couldn't go for energy conservation, it can't go for recreation because taking the building for a parking lot is not recreation. It wasn't the environment, and roads and city parking - it might have been able to go there. The other one is another land purchase we wanted to keep separate. Olson Drive is for future.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'm not trying to criticize and I understand the definitions have to fit. I'm looking at some of these things that are very important and because of what they're mixed with they may not make it. That's all I'm worried about.

President Sharkey continued, he has written the questions that way. After we deal with this we'll have a draft resolution to deal with it.

Alderman Marini stated, if we can change anything, I would have had the Police Station land purchase under the Roads and City Parking, and move the Peck School Demolition under Public Safety. As a suggestion.

President Sharkey stated, last night we had it here and didn't decide where to put it; our only thought was that it was environmental because it is a blight on the neighborhood - it's vermin, the building falling down - so we put it under environment. Our Transfer Station improvement is actually for taking down a building there too, the underground tank storage and the back truck, so that was our only logic in putting it there.

Alderman Knapp asked, the Police Station land purchase, why wouldn't that go along with the Olson Drive land purchase?

Attorney Fasi explained, the thinking was that the land purchases have different purposes. Olson Drive has its purpose and the Police Station land purchase is just for the Police Station. That's why we did it there. We didn't lump all land purchases together - some could be for recreation and some for public safety. That is how we did it.

President Sharkey stated, we also didn't put the Nature Center Parking Lot with Roads and City Parking because we felt the Nature Center was a recreation center. Nolan Field Complex was recreation. Riverwalk Expansion was recreation. The Armory elevator installation is for handicap accessibility to two floors, the entire building as a Civic Center would be for recreation and other uses. Otherwise we thought there might be seven or eight questions and we didn't want to do that.

Attorney Fasi stated, if you're concerned about the Police Station, take all of the Police Station improvements out and just say Improvements to the Police Station.

Alderman Marini stated, that tag "recreation," I sort of fear for the worst. You're going to have voters come out. Of all of these things they will just see the word "recreation" and they're going to say, okay, recreation, no. Maybe there is a different phrase, when they take a fast look all they're going to see is the heading.

Alderman Radin agreed stating, when people see recreation they see Nolan Field they think football. There are people who are not interested in that, even the Riverwalk. You've got the Nature Center under that too which is very important. And they would see recreation and automatically say no.

President Sharkey stated, it is Nolan Field, the Armory, the Nature Center. Eliminate the word "Recreation" and use the title "City Property Improvements."

Attorney Fasi stated, I don't think it's particularly descriptive. Everything on this list is an improvement to property - either a building or real property. I'm thinking we eliminate the word "recreation" and just say bond authorization for improvements. What I'm focusing on is the ballot label - what people see when they come into the voting booth. One way to approach it may simply be to eliminate the word "recreation" in the ballot label. Where it says, "Shall \$1,285,000 appropriation general obligation bond issuance authorization for City recreational improvements" - how about we just say "for City improvements consisting of..."

The consensus of the Board was to use the label, "City Property Improvements".

President Sharkey stated, I think we are in agreement on the following labels:

Energy Conservation  
Public Safety  
City Property Improvements  
Environment  
Roads and City Parking  
Olson Drive Land Purchase

I think we are all in agreement after meetings with the Housing Authority and the Mayor announced last night he has met with some of the Federal government people there, and we are very optimistic that Olson Drive Land Purchase may be feasible some day in the near future.

We're going to have a public hearing. What needs to go into the paper?

Attorney Fasi stated, what you need to do tonight is have a consensus of, this is the resolution we want to proceed with, and we want to schedule a public hearing for September 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you approve the public hearing then you're approving the process to move forward.

There is a pretty stringent schedule that needs to be followed to get this on the November ballot.

President Sharkey stated, we need a vote that this is the consensus that this is the proposal we're going forward with, and schedule a public hearing for 9/3/2013. The regular full Board of Aldermen meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup>.

[Alderman DeLucia arrives at this point - 7:19 p.m. - 11 present]

**Alderman Tripp MOVED that the proposal discussed tonight is the proposal we're going forward with; SECONDED by Alderman Adamowski. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

Alderman Mott MOVED to set the Public Hearing date for 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Aldermanic Chambers; SECONDED by Alderman Knapp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Attorney Fasi stated, I would suggest that you have a vote that if for some reason the dates have to change, then you and the Mayor are authorized to change the dates if necessary. We do have a September 5 deadline.

Alderman Tripp MOVED to authorize President Sharkey and Mayor Della Volpe to implement this plan on different dates if that needs to happen; SECONDED by Alderman Marcinko. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.

Alderman Stowe stated, I'd like to compliment the President and the Board for having an open discussion and transparency and thoroughly investigating this

with the time that we had. I hope it's the right thing for the City. I hope we work together with Economic Development in the same manner and try to find ways to continue to upgrade.

President Sharkey stated, I thank you all for backing this. I want everybody to realize you all had input into it. This was not the Gene Sharkey proposal by any means. I had the time and the availability during the day to chase a lot of this stuff down and get it done. I want to honestly say Mike Schryver has been an invaluable asset for this in meeting me, and meeting vendors, and constantly working, and it a was a long process. This started way back from the time we started talking about doing this to get it to the Board of A&T in June. This shows that sometimes my madness doesn't affect people and we can work together.

Alderman Marini stated, it was a good time to get this done right. It's going to be a good thing for the people of Ansonia, but we've got to get it passed. We need to talk about how we're going to advertise it; how we're going to promote it. We obviously have to promote it the right way. We do need to make a PR pitch here. I know with the schools and the Ansonia Nature Center they're going to be involved in that. Unless we have a coordinated effort, we don't want to think about what could happen, we have to figure out how we're going to get it passed. Other than that, we've spent a lot of time, this will be money well spent for the City of Ansonia. After this we'll have to work ten times as hard to figure out how to bring in money for the City of Ansonia. I think our next big agenda will really be Economic Development.

President Sharkey stated, someone mentioned how busy we are, that it seems like we're busier than we ever were. We do have Economic Development in front of us, we have Charter Revision in front of us, we have this in front of us. It's the time to get it all done. We would have been doing all of the citizens a disservice if we didn't push to get this done now while our bond level is right, why the money out there is right, while the need to do this is right. We have to tell the people that all of these things are not going to be in the budget; we are trying to save money. If anybody has any suggestions on how to promote this and how to get it done, e-mail, call, let's get together and talk. Let's do it the right way.

### ***Adjournment***

**Alderman Adamowski MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Marcinko. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 11-0.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary  
Ansonia Board of Aldermen