



**Ansonia Board of Aldermen
Public Hearing on Proposed Resolutions**

March 29, 2016

Call to Order

Aldermanic President Philip Tripp called the Public Hearing on Proposed Resolutions to order at 6:30 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Resolution Appropriating \$5,990,000 for City of Ansonia Capital Improvements 2016-2017 and Authorizing the Issue of up to \$5,990,000 Bonds of the City to meet said Appropriation (Or such Lesser amount if less than All Components are Approved) and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowing Therefor
2. Resolution Providing for Referendum Vote to be held on June 7, 2016
3. Board of Education Resolutions:
 - a. Authorization for Board of Education to apply for School Construction Grant
 - b. Authorization for Building Committee
 - c. Authorization for Preparation of Schematic Drawings and Outline Specifications

RECEIVED FOR FILE
 16 MAR 31 PM 4:00
 ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT
 TOWN AND CITY CLERK
 J. B. Burch

Aldermen Present:

Randolph Carroll, R1
 Charles Stowe, R1
 Philip Tripp, R2
 Lorie Vaccaro, R2
 Denice Hunt, D3
 Joseph Jeanette, D3
 Richard Kaslaitis, R4
 Anthony Cassetti, R5
 Joan Radin, R5
 Patrick Henri, R6
 David Blackwell, R7

City Officials Present:

Mayor David Cassetti
 Corporation Counsel John Marini
 Bond Counsel Joe Fasi
 Economic Development Director
 Sheila O'Malley
 Town and City Clerk Janet Waugh
 Chief of Police Kevin Hale
 Public Works Director Mike D'Alessio

A Moment of Silence was observed in honor of the passing of former Alderman and Town Committee Secretary Diane Gabianelli.

President Tripp invited speakers to share their comments on the above-listed topics.

Dave Knapp, 3 Glen Drive

About two to three years ago, the residents of the City of Ansonia voted to bond six or seven projects. I would like to be assured that those projects are complete or near completion prior to us going out for more bonding. Secondly, I was looking at this Capital Improvement budget sheet for approximately \$6 million. Of that \$6 million it looks like about \$2 million is for vehicles and equipment. I don't think it's good business practice to treat vehicles as Capital Improvement Projects, and I think you folks should reconsider and maybe remove vehicles from this proposal.

Bill Phipps, 27 Johnson Street

I took great interest when I saw this referendum coming up and the issuance of the close to \$6 million bonds. I followed the timeline that it happened. I am a little confused by the fact that this event was motioned and seconded back at the March meeting and called a Capital Plan timeline. Mr. Carroll is credited with making the motion, and Mr. Vaccaro seconded it, and it passed 12-0. Then on 3/14 I just happened to stumble by the fact that the Mayor had put in a notice of this meeting. And then on 3/22 another notice was sent into the Clerk about the agenda of the Special Meeting that's to follow this one. And the Public Hearing to review the agenda items or to vote on the agenda items was put in on 3/23. It just seemed like it was an awful lot of... I didn't have a comfortable feeling when I was seeing this. So I got nosy. The last bond issue that we had was back in 2013 and it was for \$5,120,000. Of that, from what I can figure out, \$2,090,000 is still outstanding – has not been done. Now, whether the bonds have been issued and the money is in the bank and we're ready to move on it at some point in time, I don't know. You can't tell. Items like the Armory elevator, the Riverwalk, Peck School, buy the land on Olson Drive, buy the land for Police Department expansion, Nolan Field Clubhouse improvements – the plumbing and the showers in there. I don't believe any of this stuff has been done. It adds up to \$2 million. Has it been bonded or is it hanging out there, because a couple of those items I don't think are legal. You can't tear down somebody's building if we don't own it. That's referring to Peck School; I think it was \$400,000 for that. I just don't know, and I ask you folks that when the issues come before you that maybe you have to consider that in your deliberations.

Then we're up to the present questions. I take note of those. A lot of questions come up when you look at the flysheet on the top of the Resolution. You have to look deeply because it's a 10-page resolution. The first thing for Board of Education is a damn near half-million dollars in water treatment items. What if, half-million dollars worth of bottled water. You can buy Poland Springs for a lot less than that. But I make jokes. Maybe it is, but in other words, as taxpayers, I say, what are we spending that for? What is it? Ansonia Nature Center, \$160,000. There's already \$430,000 from the last bond issue that hasn't been spent yet for the parking lot and

dredging the pond. I don't believe the pond has been dredged. So we've got \$690,000 for the Nature Center. City Hall infrastructure items, well, you could probably figure out what it is, but it's not very clear. Public Safety, the ARMS vehicles, the Police vehicles, you know, \$800,000 for those two items. When you dig a little deeper into the back of it, where the question is sort of phrased for the anticipated referendum, you find that the word "vehicle" is there. Singular. Whereas here it's "vehicles." Again, the question, what are you buying that you're going to spend \$800,000 on? And other items, you know, they're fairly self-explanatory. The Public Works, again, the vehicles, Mr. Knapp alluded to that. Should we be investing long-term notes in items that are very rapidly depreciated to nothing? Flood control, \$90,000, I can't imagine what that is. Then the line striping machine, again, there's an item you would expect to be bought out of current funds. It's a \$10,000 item. You don't bond something like that. The last one, the big one, the cute one, the roads for \$2,100,000 and identified as "acquisition expense." My question is, what are we acquiring for \$2,100,000? So you dig a little deeper and it makes reference to roads, improvements and betterments. Period. \$2 million, I'm sorry. It's like when I was raising my kids. I'd say, "where are you going?" and they'd say "out." "What time you going to be back?" and they'd say "later." It doesn't cut it. Not for that kind of money; you've got to come up with more specific items in my estimation.

That's what I've got. I sense though, as I go through the way this thing has been, or I perceived it, an atmosphere of pressure. You approve these bonding questions. I strongly urge that you table these items for a vote tonight so that you can have more time to mull them over. Take my questions and any other questions that come up tonight so that you can give them due process. Think about them. It's a lot of money. In four years we're bonding out \$10 million. To be asked or adopt or reject a business of this magnitude with nothing more than a bio-break between testimony and vote is unfair. It's unfair to you folks and it's unfair to your constituents.

I strongly urge you table these items so that you can have more time to mull it over. Give them due process. It's a lot of money. In four years we're bonding out \$10 million. Nothing more than a bio break between testimony and vote. It's unfair to you folks and it's unfair to your constituents. Thank you for the time.

Kevin Blake, 19 Richard Drive

I understand the Board of Aldermen is considering a vote after this public hearing to approve various bonding projects totaling \$5,990,000. Back in 2013-2014 the City residents approved bonding for various projects totaling \$5,120,000. Such items were roofs on various buildings including the Armory, expansion of the Riverwalk, installation of an elevator in the Armory and land purchase for Olson Drive. I think that before we bond for more projects that this administration provide an accounting and status of those projects that were approved to do by the residents,

and what is the intention of the administration in completing those projects that have not been started or completed. Furthermore, reviewing the Charter and the Code of the City of Ansonia, I know that there is a School Building Commission that typically addresses initially, with respect to renovations and improvements of the schools. Has this been addressed by the School Building Commission for some of the projects being considered tonight? The bond referendum speaks to road improvements totaling over \$2 million, however there is no information as to exactly what roads that the City plans on improving. Finally, I read Section 133 of the Charter that talks about sinking funds for Capital Improvements. Whether I'm mixing apples and oranges, I wish to point out that the section provides some insight as to Capital Improvements as non-recurring items over \$50,000. How does a line marking machine qualify for this? I think that could be easily purchased as part of the Department of Public Works regular budget. While I am not against improvements, only recently we were made aware through the media of an \$800,000 to \$900,000 shortfall in this upcoming budget. I ask that before the Board of Aldermen vote on the items tonight, to consider and ponder as to whether they are bonding away the City's future. Thank you.

Kevin Hale, Chief of Police

I'd like to spend a very brief time explaining some of the items – we have six items on the presentation for you tonight. We were asked last year at some point to put together a list of items for a five-year Capital Improvement plan, which I thought was a good idea. This is what we determined in the first year. As has been mentioned already, there are three vehicle requests in our six lines. None of these are, and I understand these are things that are not part of the normal budgetary process. These are vehicles that we do not purchase every year. None of our cruisers that you see every day are included in this. The Administrative vehicle – right now I have two Lieutenants. They don't have a vehicle assigned to them. There have been times that they have had to take their own personal vehicles to crime scenes and work a crime scene in their own vehicle. I'm looking to get a vehicle so they could at least share it during the day. It's not a take-home vehicle; it's one that remains at the Police Department, but it's something assigned to them. If they need to go to a meeting or a training class or a crime scene, they have a vehicle. Detective Bureau vehicles, we replace every 3 to 5 to 7 years. I think in my 15-plus years as Chief we bought one brand-new vehicle for the Detective Bureau. They're general use cars, or hand-me-downs. There are two of my former vehicles in the Detective Bureau right now. One of them is 13 years old and has about 100,000 miles on it. The other one is a Supervisors' vehicle. Again, that's something that we purchase anywhere from five to eight years. The one we have now is a 2010 Ford with 65,000 miles on it. Again, these are things that we don't purchase every year. Portable radios- these portables are going on 10 years now. It is important, as you understand, communications in terms of Public Safety – these portables are starting to get to the end of their rope. I think it's important to replace those. The Livescan

Fingerprint Machine is a device that we use to take fingerprints from arrestees or for permits. It's done electronically. We no longer use ink. This is sent to the State Police and the FBI and often we get results back in minutes rather than weeks. This is the second iteration – we've had one before and are replacing it now. Finally a big one there – the scheduling software. I'm going to make an adjustment on this. We do a lot of things by hand – we fill road jobs, and do a schedule, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. A lot of it is data entry and so forth. We found a system that a number of Police Departments in Connecticut are using that automates all of this. Scheduling, filling of overtime shifts and filling of private duty jobs, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and attendance, all in one system, greatly eliminating many, many worker-hours of current Ansonia Police Officer employees. This is going to eliminate a lot of work that the Supervisors have to do when they sit there and pore through - we have certain rules to fill overtime and private duty – they have to pore through these lists and make phone call after phone call to fill these positions. That will be eliminated; the system will do that. There will be obviously be oversight but the system will eliminate a ton of handiwork that we're doing now. We were going to purchase the first year through our Asset Forfeiture account. I'll give the Board an update on that – as you know, the Department of Justice suspended that program. I'm happy to report as of late yesterday, the program is no longer suspended and is back up and running, through pressure from a whole host of people. We're back to normal on that. I'd like to update this, we have in there our request for \$50,000 and we were able to negotiate a better deal and reduce the request to \$40,000. That's what we're looking for. I just want to make sure you know where we're coming from when we put this together. Thank you.

Cengiz Efe, Diplomatic Judge, 110 Woodbridge Avenue

I have a few issues that I found in this agenda. I went through the paperwork and this thing is filled with fraud. Filled to the top. Now, some of you may know, some of you may not know, my house was foreclosed on at 195 Sunset Drive in Ansonia, Connecticut, due to illegal paperwork that the banks pushed through. This paperwork contains the same type of fraud. The moment any of you guys vote on this, whether it's a yes or a no, it will be held legitimate. So even if you guys decide not to vote on this, and circle that no part, it makes the paperwork valid. It makes it valid for them to print bonds with a professional signature of the Mayor. You know what that means? They don't even have to ask the Mayor. They can use his stamp and print bonds accordingly as they wish, and all the debt will be left to the people of Ansonia. What does this mean? All the taxation of properties, they're going to fill it into the taxation and they're going to steal everybody's houses. The entire town will be bankrupt if this thing goes through. Even if you guys vote no on it, be careful how you read this thing, the yes and no being together, not separated, will still constitute a yes in the bill. I hope you guys go through this very carefully, word for word, so you guys don't end up losing everything you have, as I did. Paperwork

was sent in to City Hall stating who I was and how I became who I was. Obviously the paperwork has not reached you guys for some reason, which I see a very huge problem there. I'd just like to end the note with saying you guys should read this very careful. The moment you guys sign off on this whether it's a yes or a no, makes the paperwork valid. Allows the banking industry to print bonds using the Mayor's signature without his authorization or knowing to make money. And all the debt will be left to you guys. All the elected officials. Thank you.

Michael D'Alessio, Superintendent of Public Works, City of Ansonia

Most of my budget for Public Works doesn't cover a lot of my equipment – payloaders, backhoes, line striping machines, roadside mowers. There is a lot of equipment that's coming up. We have a lot of buildings in Ansonia. Every Firehouse, Library, Public Works building, we have central A/C units, we have heating systems that are not in my budget every year. This is all coming due in the next 4-5 years. Heating system for City of Ansonia Public Works department could be \$150,000. That's not in my budget. The furnaces at City Hall we might have to upgrade, the central A/C, we have windows, riding mowers that are coming due. Our backhoe and our payloaders – there's a half a million dollars between those two pieces and they're getting very well aged, the hours are overdue right now. Before they get too old it would be nice to trade them in now so we get some kind of value on them. Every building in town, believe it or not the roofs are starting to go on most of them, siding, chimneys have to be repointed. Like I said, this stuff's not in my every year budget except for fuel, payroll, and our every day expenses. We've got road paving coming up, we're doing 4-5 roads a year for the next five years, that's 20 roads, that's not in our every day budget. This Capital Improvement Plan is very important, to plan for it now, so it's not going to come up all in one shot and say where are we going to get the money from. It's something that people should look at and plan for the future.

Jared Heon, ARMS Director

I've spoken before about the Capital Plan. We've talked for the last couple of years regarding this; this wasn't something that was just started a month ago. I think procedurally to the public it may have just started at that time. The City has not really purchased anything in the Capital Budget through the normal budget process for the last two years. It's put us in a real big problem at ARMS with replacing our vehicles. Again, these aren't vehicles we replace every year; we try to get 8-10 years out of them before we do replace them. They are specialized to us. Some of the other things on there, we've been asking for, we've been trying to get grants for a couple of years, the oxygen generator and some of the other stuff on there. We're all pretty much in the same boat. Regarding other City departments, I personally feel that with the roads, there have been a lot of debates from town to town, that you really shouldn't name the roads because if you name

the roads then people may not vote for it if their specific road is not on it. I know that people kind of generally leave that term out of there so an overall support is achieved of certain roads. Public Works, the buildings are older, we go through this all the time. With our budgets not increasing year after year, it's very hard to accomplish the big-ticket items within your normal budget and not get an increase. We seem to keep putting the replacement of things off, and we keep dumping money into the repair of old things and making temporary patches. We end up spending more money than what the things are worth, whether it's an ambulance, or a road, or a roof. It seems to be over and over again, and these are depleting our budgets. I've had to go back for vehicle maintenance money because I keep having old vehicles that I keep having to repair. We wouldn't have to hit the regular budget with that. When we do that, it raises the taxes, it raises the mill rate, it raises the bottom line. When we're planning things out and we bond them, and they're on a replacement plan and we stick to it, we know what we're going to incur in expenses and we can budget that accordingly. We are two years behind our regular Capital expenditures right now. If this gets pushed off any more, we're going to be another year behind because none of this is included in the regular budget process that you guys have in front of you right now. I take this very seriously; I hope everyone else does as well. A lot of due diligence from the Department Heads has already gone into this, as well as from Finance, Mr. Nimons and the staff that were here for the last two years have been working on this basically for the last two years. There has been a lot of effort by everyone already and everyone needs to know a little bit more about why we put certain things in. We can definitely answer those questions, but the back work has been done to this. Thank you.

Bartholomew Flaherty, 28 Pinecrest Avenue

I'm not here this evening to criticize anyone. I'm here to voice my grave concern over our financial well being, particularly in the light of Mr. Bill Nimons being fired. I hold Mr. Nimons in high regard and I'm very, very saddened to see that his very stable hand will not be on the helm any longer. I don't think you should be considering these expenditures until the budget is fixed and set. According to recent statements, there's an \$890,000 hole in it, and I think you better take a good look at what the expenditures are before you decide to go forward with more expenditures. I attended last night's Finance meeting. I think there were many more questions than answers. Critical decision-making information was missing for the Aldermen charged with the responsibility of approving this \$6 million expenditure. I do not understand why we have to borrow money when we have \$18 percent in our fund balance. A short while ago, our Mayor stated that he increased the fund balance by \$6 million. The citizens of Ansonia are owed in excess of \$3 to \$4 million in unpaid taxes. If you collect this money and take a small amount of money out of the fund balance, bonding would be totally unnecessary. Never in my memory have we bonded for cars, trucks, or ambulances. These were never considered Capital equipment. These items have a very short life of three to

four years and should never be bonded for up to 20 years. I ask you to at least wait for further bonding until the High School is paid off. We are carrying the burden of the new sewage treatment plant and we're also carrying the burden of the new high school. The high school should be paid shortly, maybe three or four years, and then that bonding should drop off. I have questions from last night's meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Lorie Vaccaro chaired the meeting. The first question I have is, what is the projected Grand List for each of the next five or six years. I'd like the list of the names of streets to be paved. I don't agree with my good friend, and I hold him in very high regard and known him for a long, long time, Jared Heon, that we should know what we're spending. Because my street isn't paved doesn't necessarily mean I wouldn't vote for something. It's our right to know. Just say, \$2 million. It's ridiculous. I think the list of the streets to be paved should be put forth. When I was involved in here it was a five-year plan and the worst streets were addressed. All the Aldermen collectively went out and looked at all the streets and agreed, so it never was politically motivated – we're going to pave your street and not your street – it was all agreed upon, set in stone and then the paving would take place as state money came in. There was always state money for town and road aid, as the Mayor knows. It's a crap shoot now, who knows what the state budget is going to look like. That should be further concern of bonding will get us in further indebtedness. I think we ought to ride this thing out. If you look at the world economy, it's not in that good of shape. Thirdly, why must there be a referendum in each of the next five years as Mr. Fasi stated last night at the Finance Committee meeting? Is this a total of \$6 million over 5 years or is it \$6 million in each of the next five years, or \$30 million that we are talking about? I don't understand, and I've been around budgets my entire adult life. I thank you very much for your time. Good evening.

James Hubbard, 10 Harris Road

I'm here to ask about the playground at the Ansonia Nature Center. \$50,000. Doesn't that seem a little high for a playground? We have playgrounds in the City now. Also, I don't think we need a playground at the Ansonia Nature Center. It's titled "Ansonia Nature Center" to teach the children or adults on the trails or the flowers and the trees. And you're appropriating \$50,000 for a playground. It's been a while since I spoke before this body, since my wife was an Alderman, she sat right over here. Just think about that. \$50,000 for a playground. Thank you.

Eileen Krugel, 36 Cedar Street

I didn't really plan anything to say tonight but sitting here listening to everybody, I wrote down a few notes here. I have nothing against the Capital Improvement Plan; I think it's good. But why do we have to borrow money to do these things, especially when you're talking vehicles? I think a few people prior to me brought this up. You're going to pay 20 years on a vehicle we're going to have for 3-4 years.

Our kids and our grandkids are going to be paying for it, and it doesn't exist any more, it's not serving the City any purpose. I was going through the Valley Independent Sentinel earlier, and I just want to read something, if you can bear with me for a second. This was written on October 16th by Ethan, our friend here. It's quoting "The answer is simple. Smart budgetry and sound fiscal management makes all the difference. Thanks to our professional Finance team, the City's finances are now rock solid." Cassetti went on to announce that the City's fund balance, from which the City has borrowed to deliver tax decreases, is now \$4 million higher than when he took office in 2013, thanks to the past two years surpluses. So why do we need to borrow money if we have that much? I'd really like you to consider that. Also, I think a lot of people feel as if we're being rushed into this. I don't know why the referendum can't be thought out a little more thoroughly and held during the November election. This way you don't have the cost of a separate election. You can combine it and get a better turnout then. Again, I'm not against Capital Improvement, I think they're a necessity. It sounds like a lot of things were cut out of different departments' budgets, vehicles and things of that sort. Those should somehow be worked in so that they can be taken care of in the right place. I thank you for your time and I wish you a lot of luck.

Alderman Lorie Vaccaro, 515 Beaver Street

I want to thank the public for coming tonight to this public hearing on the proposed long-range Capital Plan. By way of background, this plan has been worked on by the City's Finance team and Capital Plan Committee for the past year. They've met with our City Department heads to prioritize an overall six-year plan for the repair and maintenance of City infrastructure and Capital equipment. This includes paving streets, building repairs, emergency service upgrades and vehicle replacement. Importantly, the final plan does not represent a "wish list," rather, it represents improvements that are essential to move the City forward and that the City will be responsible for getting done sooner or later. Bonding gives us the ability to accomplish these necessary projects without placing the expenses into the annual budget and thereby raising the tax rate. A key consideration for the Capital Plan that the City's existing bond debt is scheduled to be paid off by 2020. This gives Ansonia the ability to place the City's retiring debt with debt for the new projects and therefore minimizing any impact to the taxpayers. I must stress that tonight's hearing is for the proposed year one of the Capital Plan only. The process requires that the Board of Aldermen vote to send a proposed plan to the public referendum where the public will decide which, if any, of the projects go forward. Any additional years of the Capital Plan must go through the same process in subsequent years. So tonight is not about committing the City to a full six-year plan; tonight is about placing year one of the Plan before the voters with a projected referendum date of Tuesday, June 7th. I would like to thank the residents for their comments on the plan, for coming out tonight. I would also like to thank the Department Heads, Chief Kevin Hale and Chief Heon.

Jane Della Volpe, 198 ½ Prospect Street

I just don't understand what is going on here. Are you doing this so we don't have to raise taxes?

Mayor Cassetti replied, yes.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, so in the end, somebody else is going to have to raise taxes. If you're not in, David, somebody else is going to have to come in an raise taxes.

Mayor Cassetti replied, no.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, no? I never heard of vehicles going into a referendum. Wasn't there a budget? Couldn't they afford vehicles? What's in the rainy day fund? Are you using that to prevent taxes being raised? You just said, Mr. Vaccaro said you raised money for the rainy day fund; it's increased. So, would you have to raise taxes this year coming if you don't get this referendum? Anybody have an answer? The Aldermen?

President Tripp stated, you are welcome to present your concerns...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, but can't you ask a question here? Are you going to have to raise taxes if this referendum does not go through?

President Tripp stated, that will be covered in the discussion...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, what discussion?

President Tripp continued, ...that we're going to have on this referendum...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, but can't I ask it, because I wouldn't know whether to vote for it or not.

President Tripp stated, you've asked a question on the public record and...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, yeah but how am I going to know to make a decision as a...

Corporation Counsel Marini interjected, the answer, Mr. President, is if the City wants to make the expenditures to turn the City around, and the change that you see on Main Street, and you see through the City, and wants to put Ansonia from a place where it's unfortunately languished at the bottom, and bring it to the top. If you want to make those investments then yes, you need to up this...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, so we're going to have to raise taxes, plus this referendum.

Corporation Counsel Marini replied no, listen to what I'm saying, I'm saying...

Ms. Della Volpe stated, I didn't ask you. I asked the Aldermen.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, you asked a question...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, I'm not speaking to you. I'm speaking to the Aldermen.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, you did not come for an answer. You came for a fight.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, no, I didn't come for a fight. That's wrong. That's your impression. I'm asking a question and no one can answer it. Everybody looks at me.

Alderman Stowe stated, I, Alderman Charles Stowe, am not raising taxes.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, okay, that's good.

Alderman Stowe stated, there's no excuse for it. We have plenty of proper management here and there are some questions that the residents asked here, and they should be answered, rightfully so. I'm here to tell you for my part I am not raising taxes, even if this referendum doesn't get passed.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, okay. So if the referendum doesn't get passed, no new taxes, right?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, and no improvements. And no improvements. And no [inaudible] saying, and you're putting the taxpayers at the bottom.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, I'm not putting the taxpayers at the bottom. We pay enough taxes. I don't know what we get, but we pay enough.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, [inaudible] Valley.

Ms. Della Volpe asked, do you live in the Valley?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, I live in Ansonia.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, good.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, and we need to put the taxpayers first and...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, and I'm just wondering, how do you FOI things? I'm not sure. Can anybody tell me? I really don't know.

Alderman Carroll stated, I've done it.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, oh, good. Can you help me with it?

President Tripp asked Alderman Carroll to discuss that with Ms. Della Volpe after the meeting.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, okay. So, taxes aren't going to be raised even if this referendum gets passed. But how long is it going to take to pay off the referendum? We still didn't pay off the high school, and that's been how long? Does anybody know?

President Tripp stated, we will be discussing that during the meeting.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, so this meeting isn't really informative; we're just here to tell you that...

President Tripp stated, this meeting is open to the public, you are welcome to stay, and we will be discussing...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, and can we ask questions at the next meeting?

President Tripp stated no, your questions have been presented, they're on the public record, and we will be discussing your concerns during the meeting.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, all right. So we'll be discussing taxes and raising them.

President Tripp stated, we will be discussing how the Capital Improvement Plan will or will not affect the taxes. We will discuss that. Yes.

Ms. Della Volpe asked, but who pays it off in the end? This is what I don't understand. If you get all this money, who pays it off?

President Tripp stated, the same people who are paying the WPCA bill right now. The taxpayers of the City of Ansonia.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, so the taxpayers are going to pay for the referendum.

President Tripp stated, they are also going to...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, so this wasn't budgeted correctly then, because if you needed a few cars, you should be able to get cars.

President Tripp stated, if I may be allowed to answer your question, the taxpayers will have the benefit of the Public Works Department, Police Department, Fire Department, all those departments that are being properly equipped to do their job as Mr. Jared Heon has given voice to, as Mr. D'Alessio has given voice to, as all the Department Heads here tonight have given voice to.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, but as Mr. Flaherty said, if we haven't paid off the last one and we're asking for more...

President Tripp stated, the historical bond level is going down over the next three years, all right? So our bond level is not going to skyrocket; it's going to be level. It was planned that way.

Ms. Della Volpe asked, so does anybody know how much we owe on the other one?

President Tripp stated, I don't have the exact numbers in front of me right now.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, a little confusion with the last bond. We talked about some items not actually being bonded. So it's not that the money is outstanding and hasn't been paid back, there are projects that we could not proceed on. That's been mentioned. There was a bonding project for the purchase of property that wasn't for sale. There were other projects that weren't viable. So the money was never bonded.

Ms. Della Volpe stated, so no matter what you do, it's goes the taxpayers. That's what it seems like.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, the question is, how do you budget it for the taxpayers.

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, well how do you keep your budgets through the year? If you can't get a car, if you can't get a car for the Police Department in a budget, there's something wrong.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, there are many different ways to get a car; many different ways to pay.

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, well why didn't we get a car in the Police budget?

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, this is an alternative way of budgeting.

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, it is but it costs everybody money along down the road.

Corporation Counsel Marini stated, everything the City does will cost money. There's no doubt about it. The question is, how to space out...

Ms. Della Volpe interjected, and it's going to, one day it's going to go to the taxpayers 'cause you're not going to be able to cover everything. Thank you.

President Tripp asked three times if any other member of the public wished to speak. Being none he declared the public hearing closed.

A 15-minute recess between meetings was observed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder, Secretary
Ansonia Board of Aldermen