City of Ansonia

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PUBLIC SAFETY – BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING, THURSDAY, August 4, 2016
ALDERMANIC CHAMBERS, 7:00 PM

The Public Safety-Building Sub-Committee held a meeting on Thursday August 4, 2016. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Tim Holman	Present
Edward Norman	Present
Steve Martins	Present
Kevin Hale	Present
Donald Day	Present
Frank Delibero	Present
Michael D'Alessio	Present
William Nimons	Present
Paul Heon	Absent
Joseph Jeanette	Absent

8 Present, 2 Absent

Also present:
Mayor David Cassetti
Alderman Joan Radin
Alderman Randy Carroll
Economic Development Director Sheila O'Malley

There was a quorum.

Mayor Cassetti declared the meeting open at 7:00. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance.
Mayor Cassetti then opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Delibro nominated Mr. Holman for Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. D'Alessio. Mayor Cassetti asked if there were any other nominations. Mr. Nimons nominated Mr. Norman. There was no second. Mayor Cassetti then asked three times if there were any further nominations. There were none. He then closed the nominations. All were in favor of the nomination.

Mayor Cassetti then opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Holman nominated Mr. Norman for Vice-Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Nimons. Mayor Cassetti then asked three times if there were any further nominations. There were none. He then closed the nominations. All were in favor of the nomination.

Mayor Cassetti then opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Norman nominated Mrs. Sardinha for

Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Delibro. Mayor Cassetti then asked three times if there were any further nominations. There were none. He then closed the nominations. All were in favor of the nomination.

Chairman Holman suggested that the Board adopt Roberts Rules of Order. Police Chief Hale made a motion to adopt Roberts Rules of Order. The motion was seconded by Mr. Delibro. All were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Holman then opened the meeting up to the public.

Alderman Randy Carroll, 40 Fourth Street, he stated that he and Alderwoman Radin are both members of the Finance Committee. He stated that the finance committee met and they took out two items from the proposal. They removed the Fire Marshalls office and the firing range. The original estimate was for $14 million dollars and it needed to be reduced to $12 million dollars. They had to do this in order to reduce the projected cost down to $12 million dollars.

Mr. Holman asked three times if there was anyone else that liked to speak. No one else wished to speak. Mr. Holman asked for motions to close the public session. Mr. Day made a motion to close the public session. The motion was seconded by Mr. D'Alessio. All were in favor of the motion. Chairman Holman then closed the meeting to the public.

Chairman Holman then opened the meeting to discussion regarding the proposal. Mr. Delibro stated that the police station is a vital part of Public Safety and he feels that the finance committee should reconsider reducing the appropriation from 12 million and bring it back to 14 million. He believes that it is more difficult to ask for more funding if it is needed, but if all the funds are not needed then the city doesn't have to borrow as much.

Chairman Holman then asked Chief Hale where the officers currently go to do their training as far as the firing range goes. Chief Hale stated that they currently train at the Ansonia Rod and Gun Club. He further explained that there are 46 officers and they need quite a few hours for required training. They must have a minimum of 9 hours of hand gun training every three years. The officers must qualify every year. They try to do more training than what is required. Mr. Holman then asked what the cost was to train currently. He was told that there is no cost other than for ammunition. The reason that they can't train as often as they need to due to space constraints. Chief Hale further explained that there are other officers that also train at this location. He stated that there aren't as many ranges available as many have been closing. If they needed to train elsewhere, he would have to research the cost.

Mr. Norman stated that he believes that their goal is to review the needs assessment, approve it and then pass it on to the Board of Aldermen. The finance committee has already reviewed the needs assessment and made a vote. He feels that they should be voting on this needs assessment and passing it on to the Board of Aldermen.

Chief Hale stated that he put out a survey to the officers regarding what they felt that their needs were. He stated that parking is a very large issue. He then stated that in regard to the firing range, there will be a huge need as it is going to become more and more restrictive in the very near future. Mr. Norman stated that this training is vital. Chief Hale then stated that he requests that the Fire Marshalls office be removed from the needs assessment. This will save one million dollars.

There was a discussion as to creating a new police station at the Olsen Drive location. Mr. Day stated that the

number of arrests have gone down as much as 35% since 2000. He further stated that it would be a better idea to place more housing units at that location. He was told that the property is under the governance of HUD and they have final say to what is to be placed there. This is not the purview of this Board. This Board is to evaluate the needs assessment.

Chairman Holman stated that HUD owns the property. Mr. Nimons stated that the site is controlled by FHA and HUD. HUD should have paid to raze the Riverside Apartment buildings. HUD will tell the city what is going to be located on that site. HUD charged the city to sell the property to the Housing Authority and must be for Public Housing.

Ms. O'Malley stated that the City met with HUD. HUD was agreeable to having the Public Safety Facility at the Riverside Apartment location adjoining the public housing. They offered to assist in securing funding for the project. There was an agreement with HUD to locate a public safety facility at this site in order to decrease the density at this location. The recommendation from this board needs to be completed by Monday August 8th.

Chief Hale stated that the arrests are down, but the calls for assistance are much higher. He feels that they may hit over 20,000 calls this year.

Mr. Nimons made a motion to approve the needs assessment and include the letter from Chief Hale and send it to the Board of Alderman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Norman.

The Board stated that this is only to approve the concept. This is not approval of a specific dollar amount. Mr. Carroll stated that there is a deadline to submit this for the meeting on the 9th. The Board of Aldermen's deadline is August 30th.

There was no other business to come before the board. Chairman Holman asked for motions to adjourn.
Mr. Norman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Delibro seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

The meeting ended at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Sardinha
Secretary