



**Ansonia Aldermanic Finance Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

July 19, 2016

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those present.

Roll Call:

NAME	PRESEN T	ABSEN T
Carroll	X	
Stowe (Chair)	X	
Vaccaro		X
Hunt		X
Tripp	X	
Kaslaitis	X	
	4	2

16 JUL 27 AM 11:29
 ANSONIA CITY CLERK
 READ/ADPT/CLERK
 [Signature]

The Chair declared a quorum.

Alderman Carroll MOVED to approve last month's minutes with the following correction:

On the second page, Public Works, Joe Futschik, it says it's a gravel driveway. The correction is that it's a gravel road.

In the last month's minutes it didn't have the motion that I made that was seconded for having the Housing Authority attend our meeting. It was a motion but it was not in the minutes.

SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Public Session

Alderman Stowe asked if any member of the public wished to speak.

Alderman Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Avenue

I'm a taxpayer, business owner, and member of the ARMS Commission. I was at a meeting last night and I know at the last meeting it was discussed that maybe ARMS could only do one truck or whatever it was, and it just, for your information, as I've said before, this is the one unit in the whole town that puts money back into the budget.

They put their money back into the budget that practically covers and this time more than covered the amount that they had on their budget this year.

Their budget was approximately, and I didn't have the figures with me tonight. We were posted for \$675,000. They made \$760,000, actually about \$97,000 over what they were budgeted for. I think that's certainly enough to allow them to get two trucks instead of putting the money into the General Fund and letting these people get some of the things back that they need. I've been on that board now for 3 years, I guess. They've been scrimping and bandaging and whatever they can to keep the ambulances on the road. I think, like I said, they don't get paid that much, they have a lot of volunteers that have left and are not around, I really and truly think that we should be able to give them the amount to go ahead and buy themselves the two trucks, or whatever they need for the trailers that they're getting. They want to get rid of the bigger trucks and have the smaller trucks. They're a lot more, and they can get into better places and everything else. They do a lot of volunteering for the City. They went to different place, they've been up at the football games and around places. They didn't get paid for the program last year, they did it at Nolan Field. Everybody else got paid and they didn't. I think they truly need to be helped somewhere along the way. Thank you.

Edward Musante, 21 Castle Lane

I'd like to know when they're going to get a new ambulance. The ambulance we got, you know, just breaking down, it's not up to what it's supposed to be. Every other town is up to par with new ambulances and everything.

Alderman Stowe asked if any other member of the public wished to speak. Being none, he declared the public session closed.

Review of Capital Plan and Bonding Schedule for Fall referendum – All City Departments

Paving

Aldermen Carroll and Kaslaitis drove around and looked at the list of the streets to be paved. They noted which streets actually need to be paved, which ones need repairs due to potholes, culverts, manhole covers, storm drains, curbs. They made their own list of priorities. Alderman Carroll went down their list as follows:

1. Shortell Drive – No.
2. Grove Street and Mary Street – top priority.
3. Hubbell Street to Sunset – there is a section where the roads meet that needs to be paved. Not the whole road.
4. Woodlawn Avenue Extension – that's a private road.
5. Chester Street – No.
6. Bartholomew Drive – No.

7. Dempsey Court – there's potholes at the top of the road at the cul-de-sac. They need to be patched.
8. Nancy Road – Yes.
9. North Coe Lane – No.
10. Spring Street and Kiely's – we couldn't get there.
11. Pinecrest Avenue, South – if you're at the top of the road, and you go down, and it curves, that curve is the only thing that needs to be paved; the rest of the road is fine.
12. Union Street – No.
13. Riverside Drive – No.
14. Crescent Street – No.
15. Holbrook Street – I went there today. The only part of that road that needs to be paved in the future is the part where the school we're going to be negotiating what to do about it, and in my opinion I think we can hold off on that because if we tear it down the major trucks that will be going down that street will be digging up the road.

There is a street I have a question about - Kimberly – at the end of Myrtle. There are two houses on it but it's a completely dirt road. I knocked on those doors, and they say it's a public street.

Mr. D'Alessio stated, it's been like that for as long as I can remember – 40 years. What we keep doing there is patching it and putting a skim coat over it. I think that street would have to be paved. It's only small, we can do one stretch, one box, and maybe next year we should do that.

Alderman Carroll stated, they said that it's never been paved, but it is a public street. It's part of my report because these people have requested it to be paved.

Alderman Tripp stated, I know the State of Connecticut uses a matrix to prioritize road paving – it's the intersection of road usage and what condition the road is in. I live very close to Hunter's Lane and I know those roads that go up the side of the hill, literally behind my house, headed toward the Rod and Gun Club, I know all about it. But if there are only two people on that street, and I have driven my truck up there, it's passable, the road usage is nil except for maybe two houses. If the people aren't complaining, there's a lot of streets in the middle of Ansonia that get heavy usage that I think we might want to move up the priority list instead of finding these dead ends in the woods to pave.

Alderman Carroll continued, we had gentleman here before us last meeting – he lives on George Street. George Street turns into Elizabeth, and his driveway is at the very end of George Street – it's 50 feet, it's a public road. He is now going to write a letter to the Board of Aldermen because that little 50 feet – he is the only one that uses it, there is no other access to any other properties. It isn't wide enough to be a City road. He wants the City to sell that 50-feet to him so that he can pave it and have it as his driveway and maintain it himself.

Alderman Tripp stated, that will have to flush through Planning and Zoning; it will go through a process.

Alderman Carroll stated, it will have to go through quite a few – the Land Use Commission, Conservation, Inland-Wetlands. But I just want to have it on the record that it's a public road and he did come before us to have it paved. He is now going to ask the City to turn it over to him.

Alderman Tripp MOVED move to accept the report; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

The total cost of milling and paving the streets on the original list is \$344,000. The paving list for this year is being paid from Town Road Aid funding and LOCIP.

Mr. D'Alessio suggested the streets that looked decent to Aldermen Carroll and Kaslaitis may be removed from the paving list for this year. The City still should pave about 5-6 roads per year, and just choose the worst ones of all of them every year. Public Works has purchased a road saw to cut a larger area around the potholes and patch them in larger sections.

There is \$500,000 of LOCIP and Town Road Aid that is covering this year's paving of \$344,000. So that is year one. In the Capital Improvement Plan there is \$2,750,000 over the next two to three years to pave roads. It is a multi-year plan.

There was discussion about the underlying condition of some of the roads during cold weather that may be cause for repaving, even though during the spring and summer it may not show on the surface.

Alderman Carroll MOVED to have City Engineer Fred D'Amico attend the next Finance Committee meeting; and further, he should sign off on whichever roads are on any paving list; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

New Police Facility

Alderman Tripp stated, we have to come up with \$156,456 in deductions for the Capital Improvement Plan, so that the payments do not adversely affect the budget nor the mill rate and what the taxpayers have to pay.

We have a building that we've been talking about at these meetings, proposed for \$14 million.

Ms. O'Malley explained that the engineers have done a needs assessment that says it's \$14 million. To reduce it to \$12 million the indoor firing range and the offices for the Fire

Marshal would have to be cut from the project. The Building Commission will make the recommendations.

Mr. Bshara explained that there is unspent money for projects from the previous referendum that were underfunded. The full Board of Aldermen would have to transfer money from unused projects. There is approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000 in the old 2013-14 referendum that we can maneuver to other projects. We can finish projects or add to projects. What sits in the old with partial funding, there is available money to be transferred to the project to complete it in the '13-14 referendum if this Board so chooses, and then we would be able to remove it from this new Capital Improvement Plan.

The architectural firms from the Housing Authority and the Police Department are going to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the Housing Authority.

Generators for Fire Departments

That is a total for all five, \$31,000. They have one each year for five years. They are Generac's.

The total amount of the Capital Improvement Plan is \$20 million without the \$12 million for the new Police Station.

Upcoming Meetings

Alderman Tripp MOVED to schedule the next meeting of the Finance Committee at 7 p.m. Monday, August 8, 2016; SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis.

Items for that agenda will include:

- Presentation by the architects;
- Discussion and finalization of the cost of the Police Station;
- Recommendations for the Capital Improvement Plan to the full Board of Aldermen meeting of August 9, 2016

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Mr. D'Alessio recommended budgeting \$10,000 for Coe Lane.

Alderman Stowe reviewed some of the proposed deductions:

(\$50,000) Coe Lane
(\$115,000) 2 vehicles – ARMS
(\$30,000) Dump Truck Body
(\$290,000) Wash Station
(\$75,000) Roadside Mower

(\$1.5 million) Paving projects (LOCIP, State Road Aid, and \$500,000 each of the 3 years)

(\$500,000) Ansonia Nature Center (fund from original referendum)

ARMS Director Jared Heon requested putting one of the two vehicles back in and taking the Lucas Compression System out. He did not realize that two vehicles had been taken out of the ARMS request. He explained that he wished to make changes to his request, because he is more likely to get grants for some things than others. He would like to change his request to accommodate at least one of the vehicles.

Mr. Heon stated, I put in for Capital Improvement Plan requests that reflect our needs, whether funded through the regular budget, through grants, or through bonding.

He expressed his dismay that items were being cut from ARMS, a department that generates enough revenue to cover its own operating costs and some of the costs of the equipment being requested. He questioned several of the requested items of other departments that remain on the list.

Alderman Stowe explained that ARMS is getting has a huge list of needed items, and he believes that ARMS can get by for a two-year period, revisit the list, and get what they need. The Finance Committee is trying to make sure the money is there to build a new Police Station.

Alderman Carroll noted that three City departments have never shown up to a meeting to justify their requests on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Alderman Tripp MOVED to leave the Utility Truck in the proposal and take the Lucas II Compression System out; SECONDED by Alderman Carroll.

Mr. Heon stated, I'm fine if you put it in at \$60,000 because I will make it work. I'll seek grant funding for the Lucas System.

A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Mr. Bshara explained, this is not all bonding. The vehicles section will probably end up being leases. The Police Station is a USDA loan. The rest at 20 years would be the bondable piece that we would go out and borrow money in a bond. There are three different kinds of funding sources in this proposed Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Jaskilka stated, we are still over by \$11,230. The Public Safety Facility will be budgeted at \$12 million. Paving will be reduced to \$1 million. Mr. Bshara cautioned the committee that this is not set in stone, and is a changing document.

Alderman Carroll MOVED to approve the following changes to the proposed Capital Improvement Plan:

- **North Coe Lane \$15,000**
- **Pond dredging \$0**
- **Dump truck body \$0**
- **Wash station \$15,000**
- **Road milling \$1 million**
- **Replace 2004 fly car \$0**

SECONDED by Alderman Kaslaitis. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Adjournment

At approximately 9 p.m., Alderman Kaslaitis MOVED to ADJOURN; SECONDED by Alderman Tripp. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder
Secretary, Board of Aldermen