

## **Board of Apportionment & Taxation City of Ansonia**

The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held their regular meeting on Monday, May 10, 2010 in the Aldermanic Chambers of Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public session for comment on the tentative budget and to establish a tentative budget and tentative mil rate for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

### **Members Present**

Banks  
Boran  
Commune  
Kennedy  
Kohut  
Norman  
Smerznak  
Strumello  
Veillette  
Williams

### **Members Absent**

Confinante  
Sturges

Vice Chairman Mr. Norman called the meeting to order. The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 10 members present.

Mr. Commune made a motion to accept the call of the meeting. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

Due to the large Audience of Citizens Mr. Commune made a motion to recess the meeting and relocate to Ansonia High School. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

### **Public Session**

At this time Mr. Norman opened the meeting to anyone who wished to comment on the tentative budget. He requested each person try to keep his or her comment to 2-3 minutes. Mr. Norman called the audience up by name based on a sign up sheet handed out at the beginning of the meeting.

Acting Mayor, Steve Blume on behalf of Mayor Della Volpe. The administration has worked very hard to produce a fair and balanced budget in this still difficult economy. We have had countless meetings, workshops, budget review sessions and conversations between public officials of both parties. The mill rate in Ansonia has not increased in four years – since the state-ordered property revaluation. We know that Ansonia citizens and property owners will face a WPCA rate increase to pay for the upgraded sewage treatment plant, which the city was forced

to undertake under orders from the Department of Environmental Protection of the Rell Administration. Our goal is to continue providing essential services while keeping Ansonia as an affordable place in which to live and do business. It is important that we empower the school system's leadership to keep moving the system forward as it grapples with endless mandates and requirements from Hartford. Last year the school system received a 0% local budget increase. I call upon the school board to look at each of its line items and make sure that any increases in funding goes directly into classrooms and not into administrative overhead. All of us appreciate the hard work and sincere efforts of Superintendent Carol Merlone to both move the school system forward while working openly with city officials. I call upon the tax board to provide the bottom line increase needed to continue the progress in our schools while keeping a tight rein on spending in this coming fiscal year.

John Kicher, 50 Day Street, I have lost my job and am making under \$25,000/year and to come along and raise taxes to 8.4% plus the sewer assessment we are going to be hit with. I can't do it. A lot of people in this town are making minimum wage have no jobs at all. You look at this list (highest salary employees within the town) enough is enough, people are saying don't punish them but you are punishing me by raising my taxes. I will have less to pay my bills with, I have cut back on a lot of things that I enjoy doing I am not doing anymore. Everyone needs to tighten their belts including the teachers and BOE. And when you give money to the BOE the students should be first for books, paper, then the necessary bills i.e. gas and electric, what is left over can be used for raises. Our students deserve the best. Keep our taxes low.

Ken Plaunicky, 15 Mountain View Road, I am the co-chairman from "Axe the Tax" Group which was formed about a month ago. Thanks to BOAT for all the time they put into this budget season. I have tried to attend every meeting and workshop and they have done a heck of a good job. Two kids in the high school and I don't want to see any cuts but I am also concerned about the senior citizens a lot of people I have been talking to are very poor and cannot afford any type of increase. We have to think about them, they have to eat. Thank you.

Scott McNulty, 15 Golden Rod Drive, Thank you to BOAT you are doing a heck of a job, you have a lot on your plate. This is not a good time to raise taxes due to the economy, stock markets not doing great, we are in a recession and possibly a depression. In the last two years I have taken a 10% cut in pay, I'm surviving, I'm budgeting my household, and a tax increase will put a bigger burden on the taxpayers. We will see more foreclosures, we need to see more business in this town, and we have a lot of empty building in Ansonia. The Economic Development needs to be kicked off and someone needs to be accountable to that. In the 40's and 50's Ansonia was a huge mill town, we need to bring more business to Ansonia to relieve the burden on the homeowners.

Michael Ranno, 93 Benz St., Taxes can't keep going up in Ansonia with everything else going on. Looking at the handout on salaries, I can't grasp a system with 4 schools, approximately 2,700 students why we have 4 Asst. Principals, an Asst. Supt. Of Schools, and a Business Manager. If the BOE doesn't get their money we are going to hear how they have to cut sports, a janitor, books. Let's cut some of the administrations, why does Ansonia need all these

administrators they have build an empire it needs to stop. Put the money where the kids are. The top two administrators are making nearly ¼ million dollars and they need someone to run the financial end.

John Lawlor, President BOE, 8 Michael St, I am a taxpayer, and Parent as well as President of the BOE. I am urging the BOAT to step up and have the wear with all to make a difficult but right decision for all the citizens of Ansonia, rather than making a self-serving and easy decision on behalf of a few citizens who claim to want what is best for Ansonia. This has been a long and trying budget process, I am sure you are all tired of hearing the effects this zero increase will have on Ansonia's school system. It would be irresponsible of me as President of BOE to not remind you that as currently proposed this budget would have a debilitating effect on the way we educate our students and the way our students are performing. Cuts in programs and staffing will be deep, certified and non-certified staff, all day kindergarten, district tutorial program, sports, supplies, maintenance of the buildings and the progress made for our gifted and talented students will all be negatively impacted. We will not be able to continue to meet the needs of our students so they can be competitive in our society. As a taxpayer I am embarrassed, as a parent and President of BOE I am frustrated that as a group you do not want to recognize the short and long term negative consequences this budget will have not only on our school system but our City as a whole. Are we making Ansonia attractive to young adults and professionals so they would be willing to make a commitment to living and growing in Ansonia? Due to the current BOAT model of no taxes increases, low mill rates, and affordable living and housing the answer is no. The city use to always want what was best for their citizens, I must question at this time, what has happened to Ansonia's pride? It is well documented that schools and education play a pivotal role in the social and economic vitality of cities and if schools don't work the cities don't work. I am proud to say that because of our dedicated and hardworking administrators, facility, staff, students and parents our schools are now working. In order to continue our progress in the school system, and in order to provide the changes that so many of this city's critics want we citizens and taxpayers must be expected to be called on to invest in Ansonia. And you BOAT must have the courage and character to require our citizens and taxpayers invest in Ansonia. Reverse course and reconsider your zero percent increase for fiscal year 2010-2011 in favor of a responsible budget of 3% increase over the current budget.

Paul Willet, 3 Willow St., I was raised here; I lived here for over 50 years. I have gone to the schools here. I haven't seen the schools doing a heck of a lot for the amount of money these teachers are making. When is the last time the city has gone into every home in Ansonia and walked the property, insuring that what is on the card in Town Hall is what the residents have in their homes. There are a lot of illegal apartments and no one is paying taxes on. People just don't have jobs, I got hurt my wife lost her job, and she works 13 hours a week, and we lost our health insurance. I can just about keep my home now. If a tax increase goes through I can't afford to keep my home.

Joseph Giusto, 125 Rockwood Ave., I think it's great that we haven't had a tax increase in 4 years I have been retired for 12 years and I haven't had an increase in 12 years. Insurance is going up, utilities are going up. I have lived in Ansonia for 40 years starting to pay \$400 in taxes

now I'm up to \$3,400, where do I go for an increase, you tell me and I'll gladly pay it. Bonnie Williams, 180 Hill St., This is not a good time to raise the taxes everyone is struggling, a lot of people are losing their jobs. I don't want to see a cut in education but looking at this list (BOE salaries) people don't even make half of that. I am seeing people loss their homes and something like this will put more people out of their homes.

Stacy Lynn, 3 Benz St., I make less than \$30,000/year I live pay check to pay check like a lot of other people. I drive a 10-year-old car, my medical insurance just increased but my salary hasn't increased in 3 years. Many homes in Ansonia are up for sale, foreclosed on, people are moving out they are losing their jobs. We need to take a harder look at where the money is going, what Ansonia is paying for, i.e. public vehicles. We don't need to take it away from the kids but take it away from where it shouldn't be going.

Darlene Zawisza, 42 Hotchkiss Terrace, I am here as a homeowner, taxpayer, employee of the BOE and parent of a high school student. I just want to give a brief overview of enrollment of the school system. 2,700 total and since the beginning of the year 171 new students, 75% of those students is of the neediest level (K-6) those kids require so much attention. 25% ESL (English Second Language) or special ed students each child requires additional staffing needs. Many behavior issues at that grade level. The question regarding the administration, you cannot expect one person to handle 2,700 students it is impossible. Those people are in those positions for a reason and they are doing a very good job at it. Also please be aware of the Napali families coming into Ansonia, there is a church in Ansonia who has agreed to bring these families here. They don't speak English we have 13 children so far in the past 30 days. We can't turn when away. We need to keep our resources in place. And although I don't want an increase in taxes I'd rather pay \$300 more a year over 12 months than to lose my job.

Laura Lane, 117 Westfield Ave, I am a life long resident of Ansonia, a residential and commercial taxpayer. 9 years ago I retired from the Ansonia School System tonight I speak in support of an increase to the BOE budget. I do not want to pay more taxes but I do not want to watch the deterioration of a school system that is steadily improving under strong central office leadership, well trained teachers and continuing guidance from the CT State Department of Education personnel assigned to work with Ansonia. Changes in education in the last 9 years are amazing; research has provided us with strategies for teaching and learning. Our educators are entrusted in Ansonia with increasing enrollment; they are entrusted with children that are a reflection of today's society with physical, academic, social and emotional needs beyond belief. During the week BOAT will be considering what is best for our City, next Monday our mil rate and budget will be set, these decisions will have lasting effects on our City services, our children and our taxpayers. Decisions should be informed decisions, only one BOAT member has children presently in the schools, most of you are not hearing or seeing on a daily basis what is occurring in our schools. Public forums are held, open door policy exists at central office residents are encouraged to come and ask questions, or visit the website and read their minutes. My decision to support the BOE budget was based on information gain from various sources. Attend BOE meetings. Tonight you are hearing comments on both sides listen carefully, verify information and carefully consider the BOE budget. Do what is needed for Ansonia's

Educational System to grow. You will recognize that this can be accomplished only with an increase in the City's share of money to the BOE. Thank you.

Shirley Melordo, 89 Prospect St., I am here to speak for the children that go to school in Ansonia. I am surprised it is even being considered to take anything away from the kids. I think everyone should start thinking for the kids, I don't want to pay higher taxes, I'm a senior citizen but I don't want these kids to go down in the tubes. Your kids are our future.

Renee Eakysion, 133 South Cliff St., Resident of Ansonia for over 25 years and I work for the BOE. I want to speak on behalf of both I don't want to pay higher taxes either but because I work so closely with these children and with the administrators I see how hard we all work for these kids. I see these administrators working very hard with the State to improve the district data plan. We take things away every year; we are going to go down the tubes. It's not fair to the kids you take more and more people away every year. Cutting jobs the children are lacking the supervision they need. I implore to either try to get the money from somewhere else or we pay the higher tax it worth it.

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Ave, I own a business on Wakelee Ave for 35 years I have watch the city deteriorate, Ansonia was a big industrial area, I have watched plants close, people have to leave the area and consolidate the schools. Every street has one or two house for sale. I feel sorry for the teachers; I feel sorry for the schools it is unfortunate. I think I was one of the first ones to realize we were bringing Napoli families into Ansonia. The church are being these families here they don't pay taxes people do, and by bring these families into Ansonia we are overloading our school system. I don't know what we are going to do or how we are going to do it but with the amount we are going to be charge by WPCA. Businesses are not here. I feel sorry for BOAT and the taxpayers because we are going to have to pay the bill.

Michelle Flaher, 42 Mountain View Rd, I am a life long resident of Ansonia and Co-President of AFT we are here to address the concern regarding the zero percent increase. The impact this budget will have on the children is great, possible elimination of full day kindergarten, 2 certified teaching position will not be filled at the elementary level, 3 teachers on special assignment will be eliminated these teachers help support and implement our new curriculum mandated by "No Child Left Behind". Other areas to be affected an Administrator, tutor, Library staff, building aids, secretary, interns, textbooks, Junior Varsity and Freshman Sports, custodian services. All this will result in larger class sizes and lower test scores. We are setting students of Ansonia up to fail the number of teacher is insufficient to carry out the demand for "No Child Left Behind". Teachers are continually asked to do more with less. Smaller class sizes substantially outperform larger class sizes. These proposed cuts will impact an entire generation of children. Members of BOAT these cuts are changing the lives of our children.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz St., BOAT has a big job ahead of them, many special interest groups have and will petition you for funding for their areas. Remember you are serving the public the citizens the taxpayer we make up the City of Ansonia. I thank you for the time and effort you put into this task. The challenge is for you to balance reality with department requests. The

Board of Aldermen did not present you with a package that was realistic, workable and livable for the citizens of Ansonia. Listen to the public cry for reasonable taxes, your proposed zero increase is a good starting point. A number of ways to reduce taxes consider a regional school system, reduction in salaries by 5%, renegotiate contracts. The BOE Budget is not reasonable. I don't believe you achieve a better education by continuing to grow. Give the kids a better education and let them grow. Zero percent increase is a good start and again I thank you.

Terry Burns, 79 South Cliff St., Thank you to BOAT it has been a rough process, thanks to Acting Mayor Steve Blume, Bd of Aldermen members and Superintendent of Schools. It is good to see this many people involved in the process. It has been a difficult budget season. The taxpayers of Ansonia can not afford a tax increase, Record unemployment, foreclosures, retirement account depleted now is not the time, the well is dry, please find a way to balance your books and keep the budget increase at zero. Ansonia schools are 156 out of 159 in the State throwing money is not the answer consider merit raises for teachers and administrators. We are not anti-student, anti-union, anti-spending we are working class folks. We are concerned with the tread of the City, State and Federal deficit spending. It cannot continue, uncertainly and worry is constant. We are homeowners doing more with less money. I didn't receive an increase last year and I feel fortunate to have a job. If we all work together and climb out of this some how we can be the model for other cities and states going through this.

Donald Fink, 81 Division St., Since 1984 my property taxes have tripled, house values are down, I haven't gotten a check back for the difference. Where are we suppose to get the money, I'm the only one in the house that works, my employer is cutting left and right I've taken a pay cut, I've taken no raise this year, my medical insurance went up 15% how are we suppose to keep paying. Looking at the top salaries for the BOE 10 people make \$1,100,000 let them take the cut and sacrifice like we have.

Patrick Henri, 16 Harris Rd, Vice Chairman ARTC, we would like to thank the BOAT for the long hours put in for the sake of the City. The Board of Aldermen's Budget left you with a large task under all eyes of the City. You have our thanks for your efforts. Tax increases hurt the taxpayers and businesses, the root cause of our finances is not that the State and Federal Government do not have the money to give us, it is because the City always depended upon it so heavily. Economic Development has not been seriously addressed nor has over crowding in the schools or the increasing numbers of fair housing in the City. If the City officials cannot acknowledge the basis problems they will never be addressed or corrected. Next year we will be in the same situation just like last year. Our Economic situation or Sewer fees did not happen over night it been years in the making. Citizens of Ansonia can understand a tax increase under the right circumstances. We are not under the right circumstances, the Board has no right to ask for an increase that includes a \$10,000 for public works to maintain a fire museum that no one is aware of, is never open, returns no profits and houses privately owned vehicles. There are other ways to compensate rather then overtime, flex hours, and flex shifts and compensation in time. Transfer a percentage of City employees to contract jobs can increase hourly rates and save the city money. This is being practice in businesses everyday. Don't tell the people of Ansonia your broke when City employees have better compensation packages then the people who pay them.

John Sponheimer, 671 Estelle Ct, Orange, I do support the BOE request; I am a taxpayer in this town I've worked in this town for 38 years. The greatest investment in this town our students. The students are dealing with a bear bone benefits at AHS. They have the fewest number of sports for both male and female students then any other school in the state. By not giving the necessary funding you are hurting these students. The first thing people want to know before investing in this town is about the education system. That has been turn for many years. This is a very difficult period and it is going to be impossible to many everyone happy but I think you should look very closely at the step you are taking but to be short sided now will effort the City in the future.

Ms. Carol Merlone, Superintendent of Schools, 8 Shortell Drive, I am a life long resident of Ansonia. I am proud to see the crowd of people here to discuss the proposed budget; I wish this crowd were here when our students perform. The people want to be involved and heard. I became Superintendent in August of 2007, we had profession training that our teachers had never had, we had to give an up to date latest data driven decision making, and a budget that needed to be balanced I inherited great gifts. The last three years the ST DOE has been intervening in our school system to partner and guide us in our school improvement. I am here to expel rumors and ask that funding be restored to the budget. We are seeing positive change in student learning and achievement. 123 students out of 753 are enrolled in AP Courses. These 123 students will be taking 216 AP classes more than double last year. 65% of the BOE budget comes from the State, 35% comes from the taxpayer. In the last 3 months 45 additional students have been enrolled in the school system 23 of which require extra support. 20 teachers accepted an early retirement package, that's how we were able to hold a zero percent increase last year. The medical benefits for these teachers will be covered for the next five years.

James Mitchell, CT State Department Education, one of the three consultants from State DOE. I am a retired Superintendent after 40 years. Ansonia is one of 15 distract that did not make (nycd) therefore requiring an audit of the district and a development of a plan to provide teaching and learning. Both parties the State DOE and Ansonia BOE are working together to improve teaching and learning. Since January 2009 I have been working with Ms. Merlone, administrators and teachers as part of your District Data Team and I can say that your educational community although you still have a lot to do you have achieved quite a bit in a short period of time. I would like to commend the Board Chair; they are the elected body to work for the student in Ansonia. A new mission statement has been developed; they had State Representatives, the Mayor and community members help develop the vision. Ansonia is the first to participate in the Lighthouse training project, board that desire to improve their school system. Your Board supports professional development for teachers, research shows that are one of the most important ways to improve educational programs for students. I ask you to support the Superintendent in her request for additional funds because she is looking what is in the best interest of the students. If you cut administration and parents call the school and feel they are not getting the services their child deserves and needs they can have their child sent out of district and you will still have to pay. You should be proud of the great things happening in Ansonia. A zero increase is no increase it is a cut.

Marie Flynn, 27 Rockwood Ave., I have three daughters in the school system and a substitute teacher, school is not what it use to be, the challenges are great. The teachers are doing a wonderful job. My husband comments for tonight were "We can't afford to waste the greatest resource of our future the children". We must fund education.

Elliott Chudwick, 2 West St., I am a proud AHS Student we have an excellent facility that are dedicated to helping our children learn. I take part in extracurricular activities like football we have coach that teach us what to do on the field and set principles for off the field. The education of our students is the backbone of any community. It is discouraging to read about

cuts in all areas of education. The people who speak of cut have already had many of these educational benefits when they were students. We are asking the City to maintain the status quo.

Jim Tyma, Hilltop, Thank you to the Board all volunteer work. Everyone wants our schools to be the best and I don't think anyone in the State gets as much support from its taxpayers than Ansonia. The fact is this is a horrible economy, people have had their budgets cut 25-30%, salaries have been cut that's reality. This money comes from the taxpayers, these are not people who want to deny the school anything, these are hardworking people who are down in their income 30-50% in their 401K. It is not the time these people cannot afford an increase, I know teachers have contracts but if they took a 5% cut that can restore everything. It is the reality of the economy that we are in.

Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terrace, After hearing an 8.4% tax increase I volunteered by time. I am a union operating engineer. I made up 1,000 flyers and went around town and knocked on doors. Are the people going to say raise my taxes or say I can't afford this? I had one person out of 1,000 tell me they don't care if they pay more taxes. I suggest you go out in town and knock on peoples door see how they are doing. We all want but we don't have the money. This problem is not going away. Why do students that go to private schools do better than those that go to public school, why do the teacher at private schools love what they are doing so much they they make 1/3 less the public school teachers. Three facts, 10.5% of Ansonia residents are unemployed, a total of 18,544 residences in this town, almost 2,000 are unemployed. Average pay for a male is \$40,000 and a female is \$28,000. What is the average pay for the BOE?

Courtney Egan, Allison Siglinger AHS Volleyball Captains

We take AP class on the National Honor Society we are the Girls Volleyball Captains we are currently in the top ten of the junior class. Our concern is if the AP classes and extracurricular activities are cut how are we going to compete with other applicants when apply to college. If you cut the freshman and JV teams how are the girls going to get the experience they need to play at the Varsity level? When is it a good time to raise taxes our education is right now? Every administrator is important to us.

Scott Nihill, 37 Bershire Rd, Taxpayer, parent and member of the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen did present a budget to BOAT. It is BOAT's job to fine tune the budget and present it to the residents. I am here tonight to request that BOAT support Superintendent Merlone and her administration. They are working very hard to improve our school system. We cannot afford to short change their efforts and hurt our children's future. I know times are tough, they are tough for everyone, we need to make a common sense approach and have a balance with the up coming budget. We need a moderate tax increase to keep Ansonia's future moving forward. We had a zero increase for the last 4 years, everyone is saying now is not the time, but when is the time? I urge people to come out to the public meetings visit the website. If everyone here got involved we could move the City forward.

Melody Pizzola, 110 Woodbridge Ave., I have three children one with special needs, I worked at Yale New Haven Hospital and I didn't get an increase this year yet and from what we are hearing

we aren't going to get much of one. But no matter what my children need, if I have to work three jobs I make sure they get it. I would rather see more teachers in the classrooms than for me to get any type of increase. Because I know they will be the ones, sitting in this room or at that table or in that classroom teaching. I want them to have the best education Ansonia can give them. I do not pretend to believe that this Board has an easy job, but in the end there is no price on our children.

Suzanne Lucas, 36 Highland Ave, I am a new resident of Ansonia I now have a mortgage that is worth much more than my house is. I have lost 30% of the value of my home. I agree you cannot take anything away from the children. I do not have children. However I have not received a raise in over 4 years I have given up all vacation, all sick time, and health insurance in order to keep my job. I am doing everything I can to keep my job and hold onto my home. I think that the Town of Ansonia can conserve also not on education but these are very high salaries.

Colleen Rodon, 17 Jason Wright Dr, I am a new resident to Ansonia for nearly 7 years. We made a choice to move to Ansonia before our first child was born. We were able to get a bigger piece of property; a bigger house and now we have three children one of which is in the schools. We are pleased with what we see, we have seen forward movement, and we have seen that the school system and town has improved their efforts to improve education. I am a public school teacher in Connecticut for the last 10 years. I can see the progress is making toward what the other district are doing. I would hate to see us go backwards. This town has so much to offer. Our children are in a classroom with children from every different color of the rainbow you can't go anywhere in Connecticut and see that.

Nancy Manni, 6 South Cliff St, I am a parent, taxpayer and teacher. I came here today on behalf of one of my students. This student is concerned that the AP Classes will be taken away. AP Classes give students credit toward college ultimately making college cost less.

Terri Goldson, 20 Hunters Lane, Listen to your fellow Ansonia taxpayers yes they have fallen upon hard times. These hard times can allow you to help family members. Rising up during these times can bring our student to hope and success. "Can we Educate" Feed our children, provide medical care for our children. All people are hurting in town don't point fingers. Remember great schools give us great families, which give us great communities.

Laura Urzuea, I have two children I am a taxpayer our schools are important if there are other areas to cut that where we should be looking lets work together.

Joseph Brancuto, I have lived in Ansonia for 25 years I pay taxes, I pay more in Ansonia then in Shelton. Ansonia's administration makes a lot of money; the BOE needs to spend less money they need to learn to live within their means.

Cathy Adamczyk, I have 5 children who have benefited from the school system one with a disability. He is now 20 years old he is where he is today because of the school system. We

waited for him to speak for 6 years, he is still in school and will be for the next year, he has a job, and he works two hours a week at the library. My son works two hours a week, kids that no one thought would be able to talk, socialize, or have a productive life. Michael is my hero. What this school system has done for him you can't put into words. I work with these kids. These kids you are either going to pay for them now or for the rest of their lives. He is a taxpayer here. He pays his taxes. This money is well worth spending.

Elaine Warner, I have 3 students in Ansonia schools I keep hearing Ansonia is going to go down the tubes; Ansonia is already down the tubes. I don't agree with an 8.4 increase but I would like to see the BOE get something. Consider renegotiating contracts and ½ day kindergarten would not work for me I would probably lose my job.

Jean Stuart, 2 Sobbing Drive, I have three children in the schools I am very proud of the teachers and administrators and what they are doing for my children. I feel it is very important to provide all day kindergarten, it is important to start children young. My daughter is only in kindergarten and she is reading already. I feel the AP courses are very important to have. We need to keep up with ever changing technology.

Dawn Markalone, 39 Holbrook St., I have two kids at the high school they came back from Shelton and their grades went up. AHS is doing a great job with my kids. The school district in Shelton gets so much more money and Ansonia is doing so much with the little they have. The BOE can't afford a zero increase however I can't afford a tax increase; I'm a single mother with two children, living paycheck to paycheck no health insurance. There has to be a better way.

Jodi Delcher, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Mead School I have 27 amazing students but they need so much from me and sometimes I can't give it all to them. I put blood, sweat and tears into this job. I spend between \$500-1,000 on supplies. The BOE needs something or a lot will be lost.

Chris Admanczyk, I'm a senior at AHS I just want to say my whole life at school as revolved around my classes and activities. My schedule this year I have 4 periods of AP classes, band, chorus. This looks good on my college application.

Crystal Boyd, I've been an Ansonia Resident all my life, I'm going to school for teaching my teacher during my student teaching told me they can't afford textbooks to teach science and history like they use to. They print out worksheets. They only touch on areas during specific times. These teachers need their supplies and resources to teach.

Lii Defrank, I have a 2-½ year old and a 4 year old. My 4 year old will not go to kindergarten next year because it is only 2 ½ hours part day her little sister will be going longer then see will. If you take away all the sport they will be into fighting and drugs.

Tanya Quin, Bershire Rd, Part time kindergarten creates a financial stress on parents needing to either quit their jobs or pay for daycare. Parents will have to pay double increase in taxes and pay for daycare. Please consider what your doing. You are hurting the kids and families. Please

rethink.

Jesus Cruz, 25 Castle Lane, My wife is a teacher and I have two daughters in high school. I moved here 12 years ago, I started my girls in school here and watch them get educated. I have watched these professionals Carol Merlone being one of them, as an Assistant Principal of not one but two schools. She went between two schools for 3 years greeting every single student. I can't believe we would treat her in the manner we did today. I watched my girl's education. Yes we are all suffering, my wife is a teacher in Naugatuck, and she has to take three-furlough days and a cut in pay. You like Ms. Merlone's pay is so high any other place you would be paying double that. We have limited resources, we need to find the money for education and we need to find a way to cut spending in this town but not at the expense of education.

Fran Ajui, I would like to commend the teachers for their dedication, their blood, sweat and tears, I've watch teachers dig deep into their pockets. I have told my students when you come here it's warm the lights are on; you are guaranteed a hot breakfast and lunch and kind words. You spend more time with your students on a day-to-day basis then their parents. For what a mother has to pay for day care to cover ½ day kindergarten she should just stay home. Ansonia was light years behind in the past administration Ms. Merlone and the current administration has push forward. It is because we love children that we are here. Everyone in this room is related to someone in the educational system. The Educational System is Ansonia.

Kim Delaney, Clifton Ave, I am worried about the part time kindergarten I have a 4 ½ year old. I am wondering what they can actually learn in 2-3 hours a day, what about the children that have never been in day care no wonder why they fall behind.

Mike Allenson, Day St., I have been in Ansonia for 31 years. The problem is with the money not with the education. People don't have jobs I haven't worked in three years. My wife hasn't had a raise in 4 years, health insurance keeps going up but we have to make do. What are the teachers giving up?

Bob Realor, Teacher, the teacher took a zero increase in salaries last year. This school district has the least step plan I have ever heard of. I am a first year and I can't say I haven't thought about leaving. I have 25 kids in my class.

No one else wished to address the Board the public session was closed at 9:30 p.m.  
The Board tool at ten-minute recess.

### **Tentative Budget**

#### **101 School Building Commission \$0**

#### **200 BOAT \$585,755**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for BOAT for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$585,755. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10

yes)

**201 City Government \$1,414,995**

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the tentative budget for City Government for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$1,414,995. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**202 Elections \$50,597**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the tentative budget for Elections for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$50,597. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**210 Flood Control \$35,500**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for Flood Control for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$35,500. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**211 City Engineer \$35,583**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for City Engineer for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$35,583. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**212 Building Inspector \$104,151**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for the Building Inspector for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$104,151. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**214 Nature Center \$169,818**

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Nature Center in the amount of \$169,818. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**215 Insurance and Debt Service \$9,188,800**

Ms. Banks made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Insurance and Debt Service in the amount of \$9,188,800. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**216 Mayor's Office \$200,367**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Mayor's Office in the amount of \$200,367. Mr. Strumello seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**301 Police Department \$4,743,548**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the

Police Department in the amount of \$4,743,548. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**302 Senior Center \$70,795**

Mr. Veillette made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Senior Center in the amount of \$70,795. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**400 Fire Marshall \$69,483**

Mr. Commune a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Fire Marshall in the amount of \$69,483. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**401 Fire Department \$245,850**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Fire Department in the amount of \$245,850. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**402 Finance Department \$478,235**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Finance Department in the amount of \$478,235. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**405 Economic Development \$186,297**

Ms. Banks made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Economic Development in the amount of \$186,297. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 2 no, Veillette, Williams)

**420 Tax Department \$149,680**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Tax Department in the amount of \$149,680. Mr. Strumello seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**450 Assessors Office \$180,508**

Ms. Banks made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Assessor Office in the amount of \$180,508. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**502 Streets & Bridges \$2,541,824**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Streets & Bridges in the amount of \$2,541,824. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**601 Library \$514,440**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Library in the amount of \$514,400. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**602 Building & Refuse \$3,033,945**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Building & Refuse in the amount of \$3,033,945. Mr. Strumello seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**701 Recreation \$100,705**

Ms. Banks made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Recreation in the amount of \$100,705. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**702 Board of Education \$23,432,721**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the Board of Education in the amount of \$23,432,721. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 2 no Williams, Norman)

**801 ARMS \$592,715**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for ARMS in the amount of \$592,715. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes, 1 no Williams)

**802 Town & City Clerk \$181,450**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Town & City Clerk in the amount of \$181,450. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**850 Municipal Grants \$359,266**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Municipal Grants in the amount of \$359,266. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**851 Educational Grants \$8,277,519**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Educational Grants in the amount of \$8,277,519. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**875 Capital Improvements \$104,000**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$104,000. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**901 Municipal Planning \$20,425**

Mr. Kohut made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 for Municipal Planning in the amount of \$20,425. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**Use of Fund Balance as Income \$200,000**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the use of \$200,000 from the 2009-2010 fund balance as a supplement to revenue for the 2010-2011 tentative budget. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**Total Tentative Budget Fiscal Year 2010-2011 \$57,067,972**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$57,067,972. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes, 1 no Williams)

**Total Tentative Expenses Fiscal Year 2010-2011 \$57,067,972**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the total tentative expense for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$57,067,972. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10yes)

**Total Tentative Income Fiscal Year 2010-2011 \$57,067,972**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the total tentative income for fiscal year 2010-2011 in the amount of \$57,067,972. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

**Tentative Mil Rate Fiscal Year 2010-2011 25.25**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve a tentative mil rate for fiscal year 2010-2011 at 25.25 mills. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

Mr. Norman thanked the audience of citizens for their comments and advised the Board that a lot of information was taken in this evening and another workshop needs to be schedule to review all the information. The Board decided on a meeting Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

With no other business to come before the Board Mr. Commune made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos  
Sec. Board of Apportionment & Taxation  
Tapes on file

