

ANSONIA BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT & TAXATION

AMENDED MINUTES

June 21, 2010

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*Madeline H. Bottone*

TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Member's Present

Richard Sturges  
Robert Boran  
Gail Banks  
Jeremiah Kennedy  
Frank Kohut  
Edward Norman  
Michael Smerznak  
Jacques Veiltette  
Karl Williams

Member's Absent

Joseph Confinante, Jr.  
Stephen Strumello

Call to Order:

Chairman Sturges called the BOAT Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall. All rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag. The clerk took a roll call attendance and a quorum was declared present.

Call of the Meeting:

Chairman Sturges read the call of the meeting. Mr. Norman made a motion to accept the call of the June 21, 2010 Meeting. Mr. Boran seconded the motion. All in favor, so carried.

Public Session:

Chairman Sturges calls the Public Session to order. He asks if anyone wished to address the board.

Elizabeth Wojciechowski, Commission for Elderly Services said that she came to the board to asking how the center is going to function without a secretary or janitor. We might as well close up and go home. There are a lot of people that come to the center that can't get around. Our budget was cut in half; our news bulletin is in the lobby and has to be picked up at the center. How are the seniors at the center going to know what is going on.

Chairman Sturges said he will clarify what is going on. We are not eliminating positions that might become part time. As far as the budget goes, I spoke with Miss. Bennett and the problem is that the past director submitted the budget. I requested that she present this board with a new budget. No changes will be made until the new budget is presented.

Mrs. Wojciechowski asks why the secretary and janitor will be part time. Chairman Sturges said that the senior center isn't the only budget where the staff has been reduced from full time to part time. There are other departments that have the same cuts. Mrs. Wojciechowski remarked that about 4 to 5 years ago there was a full time staff with fewer patrons, now they have more patrons and need a full time staff. She said that the seniors have to volunteer to move tables and chairs. Chairman Sturges said that he will discuss this with the director. These cuts that were made were based on the previous director's budget submitted.

Mrs. Wojciechowski thanked the board.

Mrs. Pauline Sampieri, 54 Finney Street, said that we all feel the same about the cuts. She said that it is very necessary we have some one at the center at all times. At the last BOA Meeting we discussed what would happen if the director went on a trip. We were told that the part time staff would not have specific hours to work and they could cover while the director went on a trip. Our center has a lot of seniors that don't have anywhere else to go. She invited the BOAT members to come to the center to see the activities that they have. She is concerned with the staffing situation and asked what you do if you need a janitor. She told the board that some elderly people have problems and she was concerned what could happen. If there is a problem Public Works until 3:00p.m., and the center is open until 4:30 p.m., if some one defecated they would have germs all over, then it would be become a health problem and then you would have to deal with the State. I am sure that the director would welcome you to the center. The center has (4) teams that play pool, there are other activities going on. The goal is to build up, and you can't if no one is there.

Mrs. Sampieri thanked the board.

Lillian Bartolotta addressed Mr. Blume and asked about the comment she heard that he made that perhaps if your away on a trip, and you take 40 people on a trip your closed,. It's real simple.

Mr. Blume, President of the BOA that these are tough times and a tough budget, and if this continues there may be lay-offs. Mrs. Bartollota said that the center is the only outlet some seniors have, some seniors live alone and some have children that live out state. If you take away the bus from the center how will they get to the stores? It seems as though our seniors are being deprived and it doesn't seem as though they are getting a fair share. Even when times are good. (There was a applaud from the membership).

Chairman Struges asked if anyone else from the public wished to address the board. Being no one he deemed the public session closed.

Mr. Norman said he was under the impression that two (2) years ago the center relinquished sponsoring bus trips and left it in the hands of Ansonia Travel.

This way the center director did not have to go on the bus trips, so there wouldn't be a void in converge. Also, on that part, the Valley Transit had a problem with non-payment and lack of participation.

They had what they called a round robin and grocery shopping trips. The money was earmarked for transportation in the budget and it was used for every other line item and not used for the purpose intended. The prior director would purchase bus tickets for transportation. This was not how the money was to be allocated. I am hoping that the new director spends the money appropriately.

**Consideration of Previous Minutes:**

Chairman Sturges asks for the consideration of the Previous Minutes and Public Hearing. Mr. Norman made a motion to accept the Previous Minutes and the Public Hearing and place it one file. He wanted to thank the secretary for a job well done on the Public Hearing.

Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. All in favor, so carried. (9) Yes.

**Communications:**

Mr. Norman made a motion to accept all the communications and place them on file.

Mr. Kennedy seconds the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Chairman Sturges said that the communications can be discussed as needed.

**Communication # 1 City Treasurer Income Received for May 1, 2010**

Mr. Norman motioned to accept the Treasurer's Income Report for May and place it on file. Mrs Banks seconded the motion. All in favor so , carried. (9) Yes.

**Communication # 2 BOA and CC BOAT re: City Treasurer's Interest received on**

investments. Mr. Norman made a motion to accept Communication # 2 from the City Treasurer and place it on file. Mr. Kohut seconds the motion. All in favor, so carried. (9) Yes.

**Communication # 3 From Mr. Schryver, Superintendent of Public Works requesting transfer of \$6,000.00.**

Mr. Norman motioned to approve the transfer of the monies and Mr. Williams seconds the motion: A roll call vote was taken, (9) yes. The motion was Unanimously approved.

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>
Street Wages	1-001-0502-12-110-0002		\$4000.00
BOAT Contingency	1-0200-11-11-812-0001	\$4000.00	
Street Wages	1-001-0502-12-110-0002		\$2000.0
Street OT	1-001-0502-13-120-0001	\$2000.00	

**Communication # 4 from Mr. Schryver, Supt of Public Works to t transfer \$4,000.00.**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the transfer and Mr. Williams seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken (9) yes, and it was unanimously approved.

<u>Dept</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
BOAT Contingency	1-0200-11-812-0001		\$2000.00
Building OT	1-0602-13-120-0001	\$2000.00	
BOAT Contingency	1-2001-11-812-0001		\$2000.00
Maintenance Wages	1-0602-13-110-0004	\$2,000.00	

**Communication #5 from Maureen Bennett, Dir. Doyle Senior Center and Communications 5A from James Hubbard, Chairman of the Commission for Elderly Services** regarding the concern of the senior center. Ms. Bennett said that she submitted a letter to BOAT and that she fully understands the city is in dire strengths. I am a taxpayer, and my brother a business owner in the City, so I understand completely. I was on the BOA for fourteen years and I understand completely where you are at. She asks that BOAT reconsider the budget especially the transportation line item. She said that the \$7,500.00 that was allocated will fall short. The bus for grocery shopping and bingo charges \$80.00 a trip two (2) times a week. That come to \$160.00 weekly time 52 weeks, we would need \$8,320.00. She said that she will do whatever is necessary and work with this board. She said that we could cut down on the grocery trips to 2 or 3 times a month. She said that she is willing to come to every workshop. She told BOAT that she heard that some senior's members sent a letter to BOAT stating that she requested that they send a letter; but I didn't do that. She said that she stands ready to attend any necessary meeting to reach the goal to increase the budget.

Chairman Sturges told her to bring BOAT a budget for this year and it will be reviewed, and that BOAT will go through the full process with her.

**Communication # 6 Request from Ansonia Community Action.**

Mr. Blume President of BOA introduced Alderman Duffus as the new Executive Director of ACCA. He told the board that he is doing a very good job. He is here looking for monies for a Summer Program for our kids. He asks if there were any funds available or left over. Mr. Williams asks did he consider having fund raisers such as car washes. Alderman Duffus said that he was working on a grant with the Eileen Krugel which would generate more monies than car washes. Mr. Commune asks what they will use the \$3, 0000.00 for. Alderman Duffus said that it would be for Summer Field trips and it would cover the cost of local bus trips. Mr. Commune asks if they were going to use school buses. Alderman Duffus said that a member of the board at ACCA offered to sponsor a trip on her own. Mr. Commune said that it seems as though he is low balling the cost. Alderman Duffus said that ACCA will handle the shortfall. Mr. Norman questioned him and told him that these are the 09-10 Budget expenses and not for the next fiscal beginning July 1, 2010. The new budget hasn't been appropriated yet, and asks to table the discussion. Alderman Duffus said that ACCA has YSB funds that are used to pay for the staff and it pays for a part time Director with a salary of

\$20,000.00. There is a lot of work being done on a volunteer basis. Mr. Sturges said that the new budget that goes into effect on July 1, 2010 has a salary included. Alderman Duffus said that there is suppose to be \$7,000.00 left over for the summer program. He told the board that the YSB Program is different from ACCA.

Mr. Norman motioned to table the discussion and Mr. Williams seconds the motion.

Mrs. Banks interjected and asks does that mean the kids won't have a program.

Alderman Duffus said that he needs the monies by July 1, 2010 and if you table this you might at well say no. Mr. Boran said that you have \$7,000.00 left over from the YSB from a joint grant for an after school program, which has been allocated for the Summer Program. He asks if there was a purchase order to encumber the funds. Alderman Duffus said that ACCA is pinching every nickel and penny and that this is the first time in over four (4) years that they are actually having a CPA audit. Michaud will be doing the audit.

Mr. Sturges said that \$32,832.00 was allocated in to the YSB 50/50 Line Item . \$20,000.00 for salaries and \$12,000.00 for trips are you aware of this. Mr. Norman also said that he wanted to make him aware that the revenue line item was exceeded by \$490.00 which is for a matching grant. The cities portion needs to be adjusted to what was actually allocated and take the \$490.00 out of the matching grant line item. You will have an additional \$490.00 more this year. This is a 50/50 grant that the City matches.

Mr. Sturges said that they need to establish and revise the expense side for a total of \$16,1000.00 in the 2-001-0305-11-010-0014 Youth Service Bureau . The City side of the budget was under appropriated by \$490.00. The YSB 50/50 line item 1-001-0850-11-800-0015 budget was for \$32,832.00, leaving a surplus of \$2,900.00

Mr. Norman made a motion to increase the YSB Revenue to \$16,590.00. Mr. Williams seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken, all in favor, (9) yes. The Motion was unanimously passed.

Mr. Norman made a motion to transfer \$490.00. Mr. Williams seconds the motion.

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
1-001-0201-11 800 0001	Grants City Match		\$490.00
1-001-0850-11-800-0015	YSB 50/50 Exp	\$490.00	

A roll call vote was taken (9) yes. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Communication # 7 Chief Hale request transfer of funds:**

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>
1-001-0301-12-241-0002	Police School		\$1,000.00
1-001-0301-12-433-0001	Vehicle Accident		\$2,500.00
1-001-0301-12-414-0001	Electricity		\$4,000.00
1-001-0301-12-120-0001	Police OT	\$7,5000.00	

**Communication # 8 from Eileen Krugel Re Unanticipated Income Reimbursable State EMPG Funding.**

Mrs. Krugel is requesting that they approve a revenue and expense line item for \$8,512.00

Revenue	2-001-0305-17-010-1132	\$8,512.00
Expense	1-001-0850-11-800-1132	\$8,512.00

She explained that they were awarded a grant from the St of Ct Emergency Operations Centers, Equipment Training and Exercise Program that was applied for by Mr. Nicholas Gentile, 111.

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to establish a Revenue Line Item 2-001-0305-17-010-1132 , and a Expense Line Item 1-001-0850-11-800-1132 for the EMPG Funding and Mr. Kennedy seconds the motion A roll call vote was taken (9) Yes, the motion was unanimously passed.

**Communication # 9 from Ansonia Historical Commission**

Mrs. Kruger asks that Communication #9 been tabled. Mr. Norman made a motion to table Communication # 9 and Mr. Williams seconds the motion. All in favor, so carried.

**Communication # 10 from Ansonia Rescue Medical Services Joann Sjorgen:**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>FROM</u>
ARMS Power Cot	1-0307-17-840-0012		\$5,798.01
Ambulance Equipment	1-0801-12-461-0003	\$5,798.01	

Mrs. Sjorgen said that they will continue with the fund raising. The stretcher has the ability to lift up to 700 pounds without using manual labor. Mr. Norman thanked ARMS for all their effort. Mrs. Bank motioned to transfer the money from the donations that were received into the Ambulance Equipment Line Item. Mr. Norman seconds the motion.

All in favor, (9) Yes, the motion was unanimously passed.

Chairman Sturges said that noticed Mrs. Capone from the Library present. She said that the Library Director sent the Mayor a memo to requesting to transfer funds. Chairman Sturges said that they would not act upon it because it was not on the agenda.

Mr. Commune had a question for Mr. Miller and Mr. Jaskilka regarding an unpaid UI bill. Mr. Jaskilka explained that at the end of May and beginning of June there was an unpaid balance with the UI for \$199,402.72. The UI Company was called in to discuss the balance . The City has 96 different accounts with the UI Company which includes the WPCA. Not to mention ACCA account and other departments that are no included on the summary billing. Upon review we were pretty good until 1999 and that is when it started to go astray. The current month's premiums were being paid. The Public Works Department took over the UI Account in 2005. At that time there was a carry

over balance of approximately \$199,000.00. We spoke with Larry Mai from the UI Company to see if they could help us out. The UI Company was unable to produce bills that far back. Mr. Commune said that is why there should be one line item in the City budget's for utilities. Mr. Miller said that he was proposing to have the \$500,000.00 for electricity into one account in the Public Works Budget instead of it coming from a variety of line items. Mr. Miller recommended that the WPCA have a separate electrical line item. Mr. Jaskilka said that he discovered that the charges that were overlooked was from the Municipal Energy Program which was designed to save the City money, now we are owing them money. The charges are approximately \$17,100.00 year to date. The secretary at Public Works was paying current billing as she was told to do. Mr. Miller said that they now have a good handle on the bill. He told the board that he encumbered approximately \$80,000.00 to pay the UI Company. The WPCA owes approximately \$38,000.00, and they have no money to pay the bill. The City portion of the UI bill is approximately 22% and the WPCA side is 78%. Mr. Miller said that the WPCA will have to make a transfer to pay their share of the UI bill. Mr. Bshara told the board that he will add to what Mr. Miller is saying. They have a couple of purchase orders that were left open for the UI Company that haven't been paid. In defense of the secretary at the Public Works Department she is doing a good job and what she was told to do. He said that the UI Billing Systems leaves a lot to be desired. They take whatever account has a balance and apply the monies they receive to any account that has an outstanding balance. They can't tell us specifically where the monies were applied. Mr. Commune said that he is confident that they have the situation under control. Mr. Bshara agreed that the UI bill should be paid from the Public Works Line Item. Mr. Miller, Mr. Jaskilka and Mr. Bshara will oversee the bill. Mr. Commune said he had no problem with that. Chairman Sturges asks if there was a time limit when the bill had to be paid. Mr. Miller said by the end of the month. Mr. Bshara said that he also would like to have one line item for other utilities such as the Gas and Water bill because different line items are being used to pay these bills. It would be much easier to consolidate them into 1 or 2 different account.

Mr. Norman said that he noticed that the revenue line item for the Ambulance is up 85%. He asked Mr. Miller how he was doing with the City's budget. Mr. Miller said that they are holding their own, and that the tax collection is going ok.

Mr. Smerznak asks if the board was going to take a holiday in July. If there is any business they could have a Special Meeting. Mr. Smerznak made a motion to recess in July. Mr. Norman seconds the motion. All in favor, so carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Norman makes a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., and Mrs. Banks seconds the motion. All in favor, so carried. The BOAT Meeting concluded at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Jamison/Acting Recording Clerk

June 21, 2010 BOAT Mtg.