

Board of Apportionment & Taxation City of Ansonia

The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held their regular meeting on Monday March 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers of Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to consider requests for transfers of monies of all departments and/or new appropriations where funds are available to various departments. And any other business to come before said Board.

Members Present

Commune
Confinante
Kohut
Norman
Smerznak
Strumello
Veillette
Williams
Sturges

Members Absent

Banks
Boran
Kennedy

Chairman Sturges called the meeting to order. The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 9 members present.

Mr. Commune made a motion to accept the call of the meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Public Session

The meeting was opened to the public anyone wishing to address the Board may do so at this time.

Mr. Jared Heon, Chief of ARMS informed the Board that their February Monthly Report is included in this evening's packet. If anyone have any questions he would be happy to address them. Also the ARMS has gone out to bid for collection, two bids have been received, one met all the requirements the other did not. It will be looked at more closely but the transfer is scheduled for June 1st.

Mr. Gene Sharkey advised that communication #1 is regarding the Fire Museum if anyone has any question he will be happy to discuss those.

Economic Development Chairman Vincent Scarlata addressed the Board regarding his request this evening. Mr. Sturges informed him he will be able to speak when the item is presented to the Board.

No one wished to speak the public session was closed at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Commune made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the Board of Apportionment & Taxation meetings of February 14, 2012 if found to correct. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Other Informational Communications

Mr. Norman made a motion to accept and place on file all informational communications presented to the Board, and take any action if necessary. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Mr. Sturges introduced the City of Ansonia Auditor present this evening to discuss any question the Board may have.

The Auditors advised that they typically breakdown their review into sections, Overview, Opinion, Highlights, and Overages. The Auditors advised that in their opinion the City had clean financial statements, a surplus budget of \$552,000. Only two departments fell over, Streets & Bridges by \$2,300 and the Board of Education \$4,400. All findings were good, it was a good year overall. Tax Collection has improved with online payment ability and the regular sweeping of funds has led to additional earnings. The only finding that was pointed out was the division of duties necessary to avoid any fraudulent handling of funds. Management will segregate the duties to correct this issue.

There was discussion on how to handle the Grants within the City and the roll over into another fiscal year. The Auditors advised that other Towns and City move the Grant funds out of the General Fund, however the City needs to be aware that the account would need to be overviewed if that was to happen. The Auditors advised the members to feel free to contact them at anytime with further questions.

Chairman Sturges addressed areas of concern from the February meeting. There were questions to the tax sales from last month however to date the breakdown from the Tax Department is not available.

Communication #3 Registrar Salary (February Meeting)

Mr. Sturges requested the Board consider addressing item #3 from February the shortfall in the Registrar's Salary.

Mr. Norman made a motion to remove from the table item #3 from February for discussion.

It was determined that the shortage of \$981.00 was merely a bookkeeping area and the additional funding would correct the account for this fiscal year.

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$981.00 from BOAT Contingency into 0202-11-110-0001 Registrar Salary. Mr. Confinante seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #1 Fire Museum

Mr. Sharkey addressed the Board regarding this request to transfer the line item out of Public Works into City Government. It was noted that the Fire Museum is in no way associated with the Fire Department. The memorabilia is located in the old Wood Shop of Pine School now owned by the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Norman made a motion to accept the communication and take into consideration during the budget workshops for the FY 2012-2013. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #2 Streets & Bridges \$32,220.00

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$32,220.00 as follows:

From: 0502-13-615-0001 Sand & Salt	32,220.00
Into: 0502-13-440-0001 Tree Trimming	5,100.00
0502-13-120-0001 Streets Overtime	11,200.00
0201-11-812-0001 BOAT Contingency	15,920.00

Mr. Schryver advised the Board that out of the \$72,000 allocated for Sand & Salt \$8,000 was used.

Mr. Confinante seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #3 Building & Refuse \$15,920.00

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$15,920.00 from BOAT Contingency into:

0602-13-120-0001 Building Overtime	\$6,720.00
0602-13-436-0006 ARMS Building	2,000.00 (roof repair & door repair)
0602-13-410-0005 Armory Expenses	2,000.00 (maintenance furnace)
0602-13-436-0010 Senior Center	5,200.00(sprinkler system repair)

Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #4 Police \$44,000.00

Chief Hale was present to discuss his request, stressing that the major issue is the injured Officers. With six officers injured, one in training and one at the academy over-time is hit hard to cover all shifts.

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$44,000 for the Police Department as follows:

Line Item #	Trans. In	Trans. Out
001-0301-12-110-0003 Detective/Sgt Salary		32,000
001-0301-12-110-0004 Dispatchers		8,000
001-0301-12-120-0001 Police Overtime	40,000	
001-0301-12-241-0002 Police School		4,000
001-0301-12-614-0005 Police Supplies	4,000	

Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #5 DECD Grant \$500,000

Ms. Krugel informed the Board that the \$500,000 for the Armory Renovation Project would cover the sprinkler system and installation of a foundation under the gym floor.

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the revenue and expense line items as follows:
1-001-0850-11-800-1136 \$500,000 DECD Armory Renovation Project
2-001-0305-17-010-1136 \$500,000 DECD Armory Renovation Project
Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #6 Nature Center

Ms. Lindgren addressed the Board regarding her \$825 request for Animal Care. Four years ago this Board cut the Animal Care & Program line item in half that is just not enough funds to care for the animals. The Board inquired if a transfer rather than an additional appropriation would be possible. Ms. Lindgren did not wish to transfer funds from the Building Project; they are hoping to begin reconstruction in the near future and would like to keep those funds in place.

Mr. Norman made a motion to table the request at the present time. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved, the request was denied. (9 yes)

Communication #7 Building Department \$12,080

A locking filing system upgrade was before the Board for an addition appropriation in the amount of \$12,080.00 The Board was torn between an additional appropriation or a transfer within the Department from Part-time Secretary.

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the transfer of \$12,080 from Part-time Secretary 001-0212-11-111-0006 into 001-875-11-461-0021. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was denied. (4 yes, 5 no Kohut, Norman, Smerznak, Veillette, Sturges)

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve an additional appropriation from BOAT Contingency in the amount of \$12,080 into 0875-11-461-00021. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was denied. (7 yes, 2 no Commune, Williams)

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve a transfer of \$9,000 from Part-time Secretary into 0875-11-461-0021 and an additional appropriation from BOAT Contingency in the amount of \$3,080 into 0875-11-461-0021 for a total of \$12,080. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 1 no Norman)

Communication #8 Mayor's Office \$2,396

This request also represents an error in budgeting, the correction would set the budget where it should be.

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$2,396 from 0216-11-110-0003 into 0216-11-110-0001 Mayor's Salary \$2,008, 0215-11-231-0001 Social Security \$155, and 0201-11-221-0001 City Pension \$233. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Communication #9 Economic Development

Mr. Vincent Scarlata addressed the Board requesting that the \$78,659.93 from Executive Director Salary be allocated to several projects as outlined in his proposal.

Mr. Scarlata has spent the last year speaking with Ansonia Business Owners, brainstorming with other Economic Development Commissions, Mayors and looking at Ansonia's City By-laws. We are looking to use untapped resources such as our schools. We held our first Ansonia Business Forum and had 60 business owners come with lots of ideas. I have the high school students cataloging occupied and unoccupied store fronts.

We are scheduling a clean up day for Downtown I am looking to get 200 students, business owners and parents it could be big. Target has a Community Grant Program available; they are willing to support any event the City wants to put on.

Mr. Scarlata is looking:

- at a Storefront Improvement Program approximately \$45,000
- designing a ED Website for \$15,000 (this evening he found out United Illuminating would offer \$5,000 toward this effort)
- 2nd Annual Bike Festival \$6,000
- Beautification Project \$10,000 (coordinated with students from Emmett O'Brien)

The Board was excited to hear good things coming from the Economic Development Commission, but was also concerned if this should not be done with a Director in place.

Mr. Scarlata does agree a Director is needed but people are excited, they want to get things done and together we can make it happen.

Mr. Bshara informed both the Board and Mr. Scarlata that this is budget money and unless the funds are expensed or a purchase order is in place the funds will revert back to the General Fund on June 30, 2012.

Mr. Strumello left 9:10 pm.

The Board encouraged Mr. Scarlata to continue with his efforts and present more concrete plans for the April meeting hopefully at that time something can be approved.

Mr. Williams made a motion to table the request from the Economic Development Commission at this time. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Other Business

With no other business to come before the Board Mr. Veillette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Confinante seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos
Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation