

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

The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held their regular meeting on Monday April 16, 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**

Banks  
Commune  
Kohut  
Norman  
Strumello  
Veillette  
Williams  
Sturges

### **Members Absent**

Boran  
Confinante  
Kennedy  
Smerznak

Chairman Sturges called the meeting to order. The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 8 members present.

Mr. Commune made a motion to accept the call of the meeting. Mr. Norman seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Public Session**

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

Mr. Gene Sharkey addressed the Board regarding a join meeting held April 11<sup>th</sup> between the Board of Aldermen and CCM (Connecticut Commission of Municipalities). The Board of Aldermen are looking for ways to improve energy savings throughout the district by considering converting from oil to natural gas. Both the Police Department and the Fire House on the Hill top are in need of new boilers other buildings being considered are the Library and Armory. CCM has joined forces with Seimens, they would come in and audit your buildings to determine if a energy savings is available. If so they would replace any equipment and the savings are pass on to them until the costs are recouped. This could mean a no cost lay out to the City. The City of Naugatuck took advantage of this program in 2004 and received 12 million dollars in upgrades to their system at no cost to the City. Mr. Sharkey would like to act fast before the next heating season. The Board of Aldermen will keep BOAT informed on the progress.

Also one of the fire trucks was involved in an accident with a building both are being repaired the cost to the City will be the deductible of \$500 for the truck and \$500 for the building.

Mr. Sharkey also advised the Board that a tour of the Fire Museum has been scheduled for April 28, 2012 at 10:30 am for both the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Apportionment & Taxation. If anyone can not make it but wishes to see the Museum I would be happy to set up another opportunity.

Mr. Norman asked if the CCM presentation was available for viewing, it is on DVD and Mr. Starkey will get a copy to him. Also the ATP meeting wasn't mentioned as part of the review for upgrades, it could be looked at when Seimens comes to do the audit.

Mr. Plavnicky addressed the Board with the next budget year approaching he just asked that this Board think about the many elderly, unemployed, and even employed citizens of Ansonia, any tax increase would be hard to handle.

Also he had heard that West Haven had closed some fire stations was that ever looked at in the City, and at one time it was talked about sharing a custodian between the Police Department and the Library was that ever done.

Mr. Sturges advised that he would need to discuss the custodian with the Mayor.

Kath, Owner of the Lollipop Shoppe, in downtown Ansonia addressed the Board, she is very much in support of the EDC and their proposed grants to improve the store fronts of Main Street. This has Ansonia leaping ahead, it would make a huge difference, spend a small amount of money for a big outcome. It is very hard to survive as a store owner without a number of various stores around you. Please consider supporting the EDC's efforts.

Atty Keith Moran, was recently sworn into the EDC, we need people to feel they can walk up and down Main Street. I am very excited about the cataloging of the downtown area, knowing what we have and what buildings are vacant will be a big asset to the EDC. I would like to see this funding get approved and put to good use. Let's be proactive and bring people to Ansonia.

Mr. Gene Sharkey just wished address the comment about considering closing a Fire House or two to save money. The Fire Department cost the City is less than ¼ of a mill to operate for the fiscal year. You can not compare the City of Ansonia to West Haven. The insurance rates are set by our response time, age of our equipment and the quality of our equipment.

Mr. Norman noted that West Haven has separate tax bills for the fire district and the city operating budget. The City of Ansonia reviews the budget by line item, the City's Fire Houses are chartered by the State to be a volunteer fire house.

No one wished to speak the public session was closed at 7:40 p.m.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Norman made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the Board of Apportionment & Taxation meetings of March 19, 2012 if found to correct. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 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. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Communication #1 Insurance & Debt Service**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$100,000 from 001-0215-11-211-0001 Medical ABC into 001-0215-11-215-0001 Workmen's Compensation. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

It was noted that there were some changes to the medical coverage after the budget was set that lead to the savings in that account.

### **Communication #2 Legal Notices**

Mr. Williams made a motion to hold item #2 to discuss with #4 together. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Communication #3 Youth Leadership Program**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the establishing of expense line item 1-001-0850-11-800-0184 United Way Youth Leadership Project for \$500, and revenue line item 2-001-0305-17-010-0184 United Way Youth Leadership Project for \$500. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Communication #2 & # 4 Legal Notices**

Mr. Bshara advised the Board that he did not realize that two requests were submitted for Legal and Claims. There has been a dramatic increase in publication costs both in print and on the web. Mr. Bshara is going to schedule a meeting with the Corporation Counsel to discuss options for savings based on the City Charter. The City is facing close to \$100,000 in legal notice fees for this fiscal year alone.

It was noted that the BOAT Contingency currently is at \$29,000.

Mr. Williams made a motion to table the request #2 for an additional appropriation of \$3,000 to Legal Notices. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the request for an additional appropriation from BOAT Contingency in the amount of \$15,000 into 001-021-11-620-0002 Legal Notices. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Communication #5 Encumbrance EDC**

Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the communication from the EDC and place it on file for consideration. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Communication #6 EDC Proposal**

Mr. Norman made a motion to remove from the table communication #9 from March to join with the current proposal before the Board. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

Mr. Scarlatta addressed the Board first beginning with changing the request for \$8,000 for Main Street Beautification to use the funds for legal notices for the RFQ for the new Director/Consultant for the EDC. The EDC is hoping the RFQ will be ready to go out in a week but the hiring would probability be closer to July.

Mr. Norman expressed his concern with using salary funds for budgetary projects. Mr. Sturges stated he normally feels the same way however with nothing being done in so long, I feel we should give this commission a chance to move forward.

Mr. Norman felt this should be discussed at a workshop and considered putting into next years budget. I would like to see what they would like to get done and how they are planning on doing it. It seems the proposal changed from March to April and may need to change again. The website cost seems excessive and should be reviewed.

Alderman John Marini spoke with the Board stating that yes the proposal changed from March to April and can only get better with time. We would be happy to sit for a workshop and discuss this proposal for the 2012-2013 budget year. EDC wants to move forward bring investors into the City. We certainly don't want to get a consultant in place and have no resources to work with. As far as the EDC web site goes it needs to be used as a marketing tool, Sandormax may not be the firm to go with but we can look into that as well.

The Bike Festival is scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the EDC wished to co-sponsor the event with the Cultural Commission. It would be a more open event, a family event, spot lighting the food services on Main Street.

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve transferring \$5,700 from 0405-18-110-0001 Executive Director into 1-001-0405-18-613-0002 Bike Festival Ansonia. Mr. Norman seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

Mr. Norman made a motion to set up a workshop with the EDC to discuss the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget for April 30, 2012. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

### **Communication #7 Fire Department**

Mr. Norman made a motion to accept the late communication from the Fire Department for consideration. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

The meeting was open to the public for anyone who wished to discuss communication #7. No one wished to address the Board the public session was closed.

Mr. Gene Sharkey informed the Board that a Class A Fire Truck is less than 20 years old and the DOT certifies them annually. The Fire Department has one truck they would like

to run for an additional 5 years to 25 year old. It can be done but would need some maintenance work. The truck year is 1992 and is housed at the Eagle Hose. The estimated repairs are approximately \$7,000.

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$2,000 from 401-12-617-0001 Rescue Maintenance and \$2,500 from 401-12-111-0001 Fire Chief into 401-12-440-0007 Repair to Apparatus. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes)

**Other Business**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos  
Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation