

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

The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held their regular meeting on Monday, May 14, 2012 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, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

### **Members Present**

Banks  
Boran  
Commune  
Confinante  
Kohut  
Norman  
Smerznak  
Strumello  
Veillette  
Williams  
Sturges

### **Members Absent**

Kennedy

Chairman Sturges called the meeting to order. The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 11 members present.

Mr. Norman made a motion to accept the call of the meeting. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **Public Session**

At this time Mr. Sturges opened the meeting to anyone who wished to comment on the tentative budget.

John Brady addressed the Board on behalf of the Social Justice Committee for the Church of the Assumption. Mr. Brady wished to discuss the line item in the Police Budget that covers center line painting for the city streets. This line item seems to be cut each year and it is a safety issue for the citizens of Ansonia. I would like this Board to consider funding the repainting of center lines.

Dave Character, 24 Rockwood Avenue

Mr. Character questions when the city's next evaluation is? He is currently refinancing his home and the financial institution is telling him his home appraises at \$50,000 less than the City has on file. The Board informed him revaluation needs to be done every five years and for Ansonia it will be complete by October 2012.

John Lawlor, 8 Michael Street, Chairman Board of Education, Parent and Taxpayer  
Mr. Lawlor thanked the Board for there hard work, understanding what a difficult process preparing the City's budget is. He did not wish to re-hash all the areas discussed during the budget process, but Ansonia needs to compare their Educational System to other towns, how much will these proposed cuts cost? The Board of Education has made great advancements over the pass 6 years with minimal assistants from the City. This budget before the Board tonight would mean cutting 24 positions, reducing sports, cutting the music and art programs, reducing one class from each grade for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, and eliminating the assistant principal at the high school. Over the past three years the Board of Education has received an average increase of 1.03%, which is not enough to sustain the current services offered. Mr. Lawlor would like to see the Board reconsider the reduction and increase the budget by at least \$300,000 or 1%. The Board should keep in mind that the Economic Development of Ansonia is directly related to the quality of Education the Ansonia children receive.

Kathleen Benson, 16 Ford Street

Ms. Benson is a life long resident of Ansonia and stated the children deserve the best education possible. They need the Arts, Sports and smaller classrooms. Please consider funding the education budget.

Michael Egan, 103 Benz St.

Mr. Egan also thanked the Board for a good job. The taxpayers of Ansonia can not bear to see their taxes rise again. Everyone needs to work together to keep the taxes down, contracts need to be negotiated; even the school should revisit regionalization.

Joan Radin, 198 Wakelee Ave 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman

Alderwoman Radin thank the Board I know how hard they have worked, I attended many of their workshops and watched them try to determine what had to be cut and where they were going with their decisions. Everything is going up, no one wants this 1.5% increase it is hard but we all know it has to go up.

Charlie Stowe, 23 Granite Terrace

Mr. Stowe thanked the Board as well for the work they do, it does not go unappreciated. The Board needs to play attention to the residents of Ansonia they are having a tough time. The average income for residents in 2009 was \$54,000 in 2011 it dropped to \$43,000. The home values are dropping and income and sales taxes are up in Connecticut. Maybe we should consider having the residents' way in on the budget like it is done in other surrounding towns. We need to share in the sacrifice throughout the City with pay freezes etc.

No one else wished to address the Board the public session was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Sturges advised the audience that the Board would vote on a tentative budget tonight, by law, it is not the final budget all concerns aired this evening will be considered prior to the final budget vote next Monday night. Thank you all for coming out and voicing your concerns.

## **Tentative Budget**

### **101 School Building Commission \$2,100**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the School Building Commission in the amount of \$2,100. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **200 BOAT \$430,045**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the tentative budget for BOAT for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$430,045. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **201 City Government \$3,015,915**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for City Government for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$3,015,915. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **202 Elections \$58,675**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for Elections for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$58,675. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **210 Flood Control \$27,400**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for Flood Control for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$27,400. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **211 City Engineer \$37,635**

Mr. Confinante made a motion to approve the tentative budget for City Engineer for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$37,635. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **212 Building Inspector \$114,902**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for the Building Inspector for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$114,902. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **214 Nature Center \$176,300**

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Nature Center in the amount of \$176,300. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

### **215 Insurance and Debt Service \$9,491,143**

Mr. Confinante made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for

Insurance and Debt Service in the amount of \$9,491,143. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**216 Mayor's Office \$204,970**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Mayor's Office in the amount of \$204,970. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**220 Emergency Operation Center \$10,000**

Mr. Veillette made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Emergency Operation Center in the amount of \$10,000. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**301 Police Department \$5,686,867**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Police Department in the amount of \$5,686,867. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**302 Senior Center \$142,062**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Senior Center in the amount of \$142,062. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**400 Fire Marshall \$74,436**

Mr. Williams a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Fire Marshall in the amount of \$74,436. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

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

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Fire Department in the amount of \$245,850. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**402 Finance Department \$490,029**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Finance Department in the amount of \$490,029. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**405 Economic Development \$201,828**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Economic Development in the amount of \$201,828. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved (11 yes)

**420 Tax Department \$202,740**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Tax Department in the amount of \$202,740. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**450 Assessors Office \$221,931**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Assessor Office in the amount of \$221,931. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**502 Streets & Bridges \$1,521,456**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Streets & Bridges in the amount of \$1,521,456. Mr. Confinante seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**601 Library \$482,217**

Mr. Confinante made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Library in the amount of \$482,217. Ms. Banks seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes, 1 no Mr. Williams)

**602 Building & Refuse \$2,612,573**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Building & Refuse in the amount of \$2,612,573. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**701 Recreation \$95,996**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Recreation in the amount of \$95,996. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**702 Board of Education \$27,000,000**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the Board of Education in the amount of \$27,000,000. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes, 2 no Ms. Banks, Mr. Williams)

**801 ARMS \$708,435**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for ARMS in the amount of \$708,435. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**802 Town & City Clerk \$186,610**

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Town & City Clerk in the amount of \$186,610. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**850 Municipal Grants \$366,494**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Municipal Grants in the amount of \$366,494. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**851 Educational Grants \$4,419,704**

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Educational Grants in the amount of \$4,419,704. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes, 1 no Mr. Norman)

**875 Capital Improvements \$409,000**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$409,000. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

It was noted that included in this budget was the Police Cars, Flood Dike, and Plans for the Expansion of the Greenway. Not included were the new ambulance and the Public Works Vehicle those would be found in the Debt Service Budget.

**901 Municipal Planning \$35,425**

Mr. Commune made a motion to approve the tentative budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 for Municipal Planning in the amount of \$35,425. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**Use of Fund Balance as Income \$322,000**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the use of \$322,000 from the 2011-2012 fund balance as a supplement to revenue for the 2012-2013 tentative budget. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

**Total Tentative Expenses Fiscal Year 2012-2013 \$58,672,738**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the total tentative expense for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$58,672,738. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes, 1 no Ms. Banks)

**Total Tentative Income Fiscal Year 2012-2013 \$58,672,738**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve the total tentative income for fiscal year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$58,672,738. Mr. Commune seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes, 1 no Ms. Banks)

**Tentative Mil Rate Fiscal Year 2012-2013 27.65**

Mr. Norman made a motion to approve a tentative mil rate for fiscal year 2012-2013 at 27.65 mills. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (10 yes, 1 no Ms. Banks)

Mr. Sturges reminded the Board of a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to discuss any changes they may see fit prior to the final budget next Monday evening. It should be noted that this budget reflects a decrease in spending and a decrease in revenue however the City will realize an increase in the mil rate.

With no other business to come before the Board Mr. Commune made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (11 yes)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos  
Sec. Board of Apportionment & Taxation