

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

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The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss budget issues for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Members Present

- Mr. Kennedy
- Mr. Kohut
- Mr. Smerznak
- Mr. Veillette
- Ms. Waugh
- Mr. King

Mr. Bshara provided the Board with a hand-out from the Connecticut State Department of Education for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 year showing the Net Current Expenditures per pupil.

It was noted that Ansonia was far from last in the State and rated above Derby, Seymour, Shelton and Oxford in NCEP.

It was also noted that Ansonia received 100 new special education students from the beginning of the school year until its conclusion.

The State gives Ansonia a percentage of revenue based on the population of the special education children. The problem is the City set their budget prior to the State setting their so the City but always estimate the revenue received by the State.

Another point of interest was the Board of Education does not fund the pension plan for there employees, that must be funded by the City's side of the budget.

Mr. Bshara share a conversation he had with Bonding Personnel that a City and Connecticut is going bankrupt and all Cities and Towns in the State should have at least two months of revenue for "rainy days" That two month funding would equate to \$10,000,000, Ansonia has \$8,000,000 currently.

The Board would like to shore the departments up by giving them what they need now so they don't have to consider that in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The Board mentioned the new regarding the busing changes in Milford, can the City look into changing the bus routes to prevent commissioning so many buses with so few children on them.

Economic Development 405

The Board agreed to reduce the line item 1-001-0405-18-110-0001 Executive Director down to \$50,193. The Director will be performing both this position and the Grant

Writing position for the City. The Director did request the salary saving be used for professional services but the Board opted not to grant that request.

The Board questioned what the Marketing Materials of \$9,000 was going to be used for? Mr. Bshara advised that publishing in trade magazines is very costly as well as flyers which may be a form of marketing materials.

Mr. Bshara will supply the Director with a copy of the proposed budget to see if she would like to move any of the current funds within the department to other line items.

The \$9,807 deduction in the budget brings the budget to \$122,512

Grant Writer 201

The Board moved to reduce the Grant Writer Salary 1-001-0201-11-110-0003 from \$55,212 to \$35,136.

Legal 201

The Board increased the Legal line item 1-001-0201-11-321-0001 up to \$189,500 a \$49,000 increase.

Mr. Kohut suggested the Board should take the approach that we cut \$1,000,000 from the budget and replace the funds back into the reserve fund, and fund the old City Pension Account.

Mr. Kohut suggested cutting each department by the percentage they are of the total City Budget.

Ie. Total Budget \$60,000,000

BOE Budget 30,000,000 50% of total budget

Cut the Board of Education by \$500,000 to arrive at your \$1,000,000 budget cut.

Mr. King had always not wished to cut the Board of Education however as the numbers are coming in it appears this Board may have not choice. The Board of Education drop dead funding number is \$29,190,981 which represents a 4.25% increase over last fiscal year.

Other members tossed a 4% increase on the table to \$29,120,000. The Board voted on both 4% and 4.25% both were denied.

Although the Board of Aldermen and Mayor arrived at a reduction of \$300,000 for the Board of Education Mr. Kennedy felt that until the remove the Board of Apportionment & Taxation as the Tax Board of the City it is their responsible to the Taxpayers to not rubber stamp a budget but approve one that will work best for the whole City.

A motion was made to reduce the Board of Education Budget from \$29,579,549 to \$29,190,981 which represents a 4.25% increase over last fiscal year. Also to return to the fund balance \$100,000 therefore only using \$450,000 from the fund balance as income for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. And lastly to fund the Old City Pension 1-001-0201-11-221-0002 by \$300,000.

The Board was in agreement with these suggestions.

BOAT 4-24-14 (1)

Mr. Veillette made a motion to adjourn the meeting this evening at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. The motion was approved. The Board will meet again April 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos
Donna Duclos *(vll)*
Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation