

**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 Monday, April 28, 2014 at 6: p.m. in Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss budget issues for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Christina Branch
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Members Present

Ms. Biasucci
Ms. Blackwell
Ms. Geruntho
Mr. Kennedy
Mr. Kohut
Ms. Pinto
Mr. Smerznak
Mr. Veillette
Ms. Waugh
Mr. King

Economic Development

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. opening with the review of the Economic Development Department. The Board was advised that her budget was given to her to review if she wished to move funding or request additional funding she needed to contact this Board.

Ms. Waugh was concern with the \$9,000 for Marketing Materials, no explanation was given to this Board on what the funds would be used for. This Board met with every other Department and went through every line item in their budget. We did not have the opportunity to do that with the Economic Development.

Mr. King stated the goal of this Administration is to increase the Economic Development's availability to operate and do the job that needs to be done for the City of Ansonia.

The Board discussed the possibility of combining the Travel and Auto Expense, requesting a voucher be submitted for mileage. Mr. Bshara advised that the Travel Expense line item is used for conventions attended by the Department.

Ms. Biasucci agrees we need the Department to run at its fullest.

Mr. Veillette also agreed the Economic Development should not be unfunded to succeed. We should go into the new fiscal year monitoring the funds.

The Board agreed with the final budget for Economic Development in the amount of \$132,319

School Building Commission

The Board agreed with the zero funding in the School Building Commission.

Public Works 555

Mr. King wished to step back and discuss the Public Works Department and the Summer Help. The Board has approved \$25,000 for the current year, Mr. Novak believes the program and get by with only an additional \$15,000 in the new fiscal year budget. The program has begun with some part-time employees on board. The Board agreed with the reduction from \$25,000 to \$15,000 in Summer Help Program 1-001-0555-13-111-0001.

Mr. Bshara brought a few changes to the Board attention:

- Curb Side Refuse 1-001-0555-13-421-0001 reduce down from \$464,784 to \$420,000
- Recycling Program 1-001-0555-13-422-0001 increase from \$141,229 to \$150,000
- Haul Away 1-001-0555-13-423-0001 reduce down from \$937,573 to \$875,000

These changes bring the Public Works Department total to \$3,858,418 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 down \$230,154 from last year a decrease of 5.63%.

Mr. King discussed the leasing of two new trucks at a cost of \$75,000 over 5 years, it was noted that if funding isn't allocated Public Works can not go to their Commission to request the trucks.

- The Board agreed to create a line item in Insurance & Debt Service for \$75,000 for the leasing of two Public Works Trucks

With that change the total for Debt Service is \$9,957,129 down 3.98%

ARMS 801

- The Board discussed the combining of several of the line items together in the future ie:
Maintenance Supplies, Protective Equipment, Medical, General and Ambulance Supplies.
- Carry the Stretcher Maintenance Contract was discussed as well everyone could have a different view on whether it is a wise investment, without the cost of the contract a new stretcher could be purchased every two years, but then you are taking the chance of not having the coverage if something went wrong.
- It was noted that the response time has improved tremendously for ARMS and the City should be very pleased with that.

Board of Education 702

Mr. Mike Wilson was present on behalf of the Board of Education to answer any questions the Board may have.

At the last meeting the Board set a Education budget at 4.25 increase totaling \$29,190,981. This number represents a bare bones budget for the Board of Education. Mr. King advised that the Board did this because of concerns the City had with fund the old City Pension Fund.

Mr. King has been informed that other avenues are being looked at to fund the Pension Fund and rather than the original \$300,000 allocated only \$175,000 would be needed.

To lessen the burden on the Board of Education Mr. King would like to return \$125,000 back to their budget.

75% of the Board of Education budget is for salaries and benefits that is true. The Board of Education is faced with the dilemma that when a grant is applied for and received that are aware that once the funds run out it is the Board of Education's responsibility to fund the program in the future. If they do not agree to do so grants would never be funded to the City.

The Board of Education is looking at ten new students entering the system as of March 1st.

Many children are out placed due to domestic or medical situations however it is still the responsibility of the home town to fund the education.

Ms. Blackwell wanted the Board to realize if the extra funding \$125,000 is not given to the Board of Education it is not the Administration or Salaries that will be effected, it is the children.

The Board was supplied with information at the last meeting showing Ansonia in top expended per pupil out of the surrounding towns. That information was skewed because the formula included the school roof project. If you take that project out of the formula Ansonia pay the lowest per student within the district.

Mr. King committed that the Certified, Noncertified, and Support Staff for the Board of Education runs approximately \$19,000,000. However when you compare Ansonia's average salary to their peers we are less.

It was noted that the last time the school system went without an increase to their budget was the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year.

The City is working with the Board of Education to buy insurance together to realize a savings. The Board will be made aware of that saving when the numbers are available.

Ms. Waugh, Ms. Biasucci and Ms. Geruntho general consensus was to keep the Board of Education at the current level and if they need funding they can always come back to this Board.

Mr. Kohut could not understand why the Chairman was pleased with last week's decision to fund the Board of Education at the 4.25% increase and now it needs to change.

Mr. King advised funded at bare bones is never a good way to go.

Ms. Blackwell stated if you are thinking you may fund the Board of Education later why not give them the fund now.

Mr. Smerznak mentioned the Revenue Fund; we should keep that in find as well.

It was noted that the Contracts are up with the Board of Education and a 4.82% salary increase has been approved.

Mr. Bshara advised the Board that he, Mr. Nimons and the Board of Education are discussion pulling out the Grants from the Board of Education Budget and places them in the Educational Grants section of the City budget it is too difficult to budget and that may help down the road.

The Board discussed funding the Old City Pension at the reduced rate of \$175,000 and placing the \$125,000 back into the Reverse Fund Balance reducing the Fund Balance as Income to \$325,000.

Much discussing took place, the members wished to take a vote on the position of the Board.

Mr. Veillette made a motion to reduce the Old City Pension 1-001-0201-11-221-0002 from \$300,000 to \$175,000 and to return to the Fund Balance \$125,000 reducing the Fund Balance as Income 2-001-0310-11-010-0014 to \$325,000. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 2 no Ms. Blackwell, Mr. King)

A motion was make to adjourn the meeting this evening at 8:50 p.m. The Board will meet again Monday May 5, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a list additional proposed items to finalize the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Respectfully submitted,


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