

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

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*Debra Branch*  
 TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
 ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held their regular meeting on Monday, May 19, 2014 in the Aldermanic Chambers of Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to make further alterations in the estimates, appropriations and tax rates and to make appropriation and lay taxes for all City purposes for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. To consider requests for transfer of monies of all department and/or new appropriations where funds are available to various departments. Any other business to come before said Board as it pertains to the finalizing of the Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 budget.

**Members Present**

Ms. Biasucci  
 Ms. Blackwell (via telephone)  
 Mr. Boran  
 Mr. Kennedy  
 Mr. Kohut  
 Mr. Smerznak  
 Mr. Veillette  
 Ms. Waugh  
 Mr. King

**Members Absent**

Ms. Geruntho  
 Ms. Izzo  
 Ms. Pinto

Chairman King called the meeting to order. The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 8 members present, Ms. Blackwell available via telephone.

Ms. Biasucci made a motion to accept the call of the meeting. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Final Budget Fiscal Year 2014-2015****200 BOAT \$565,092**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for BOAT for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$565,092. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**201 City Government \$2,692,871**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for City Government for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$2,692,871. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**202 Elections \$55,099**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for Elections for fiscal year 2014-2015 in

the amount of \$55,099. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**211 City Engineer \$38,558**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for City Engineer for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$38,558. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**212 Building Inspector \$172,027**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for the Building Inspector for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$172,027. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**214 Nature Center \$176,927**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Nature Center in the amount of \$176,927. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**215 Insurance and Debt Service \$9,957,129**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Insurance and Debt Service in the amount of \$9,957,129. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**216 Mayor's Office \$202,224**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Mayor's Office in the amount of \$202,224. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**220 Emergency Operation Center \$30,000**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Emergency Operation Center in the amount of \$30,000. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**301 Police Department \$5,722,165**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Police Department in the amount of \$5,722,165. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 1 abstain Ms. Blackwell)

**302 Senior Center \$127,650**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Senior Center in the amount of \$127,650. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**400 Fire Marshall \$73,480**

Ms. Waugh a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Fire Marshall

in the amount of \$73,480. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**401 Fire Department \$253,750**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Fire Department in the amount of \$253,750. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**402 Finance Department \$506,904**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Finance Department in the amount of \$506,904. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**405 Economic Development \$122,512**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Economic Development in the amount of \$122,512. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved (9 yes)

**420 Tax Department \$215,751**

Mr. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Tax Department in the amount of \$215,751. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**450 Assessors Office \$144,653**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Assessor Office in the amount of \$144,653. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**555 Public Works \$3,858,418**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Public Works in the amount of \$3,858,418. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**601 Library \$497,898**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Library in the amount of \$497,898. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**701 Recreation \$96,700**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Recreation in the amount of \$96,700. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**702 Board of Education \$28,897,207**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Board of Education in the amount of \$28,897,207. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**801 ARMS \$712,500**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for ARMS in the amount of \$712,500. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**802 Town & City Clerk \$351,581**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Town & City Clerk in the amount of \$351,581. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**850 Municipal Grants \$611,495**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Municipal Grants in the amount of \$611,495. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**851 Educational Grants \$5,162,331**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Educational Grants in the amount of \$5,162,331. Mr. Veillette seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**875 Capital Improvements \$106,401**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$106,401. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**901 Municipal Planning \$34,000**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the final budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 for Municipal Planning in the amount of \$34,000. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Total Final Budget Expenses Fiscal Year 2014-2015 \$61,385,323**

Ms. Biasucci made a motion to approve the total final budget expense for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$61,385,323. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Total Final Budget Revenue Fiscal Year 2014-2015 \$61,385,323**

Ms. Biasucci made a motion to approve the total final budget revenue for fiscal year 2014-2015 in the amount of \$61,385,323. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Total Fund Balance as Income from Surplus Fiscal Year 2014-2015 \$550,000**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the use of 2013-2014 fund balance as a supplement to revenue for the 2014-2015 City Budget in the amount of \$550,000. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 1 no Mr. Veillette)

**Final Mil Rate Fiscal Year 2014-2015 38.61**

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve a final mil rate for fiscal year 2014-2015 at 38.61 mills on the dollar to be and the same is hereby assessed on the ratable estate of the Town & City of Ansonia, last completed being the Grand list of 2013. One half (1/2) or 19.305 mills due July 1, 2014 and one half (1/2) or 19.305 mills due January 1, 2015. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Mr. Smerznak wished to extend his gratitude to the newest members of BOAT for the many long hours they put into this budget for the taxpayers of Ansonia.

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Public Session**

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

Mayor Cassetti addressed the Board thanking them for a fine job done on the budget. This process began in February and was concluded this evening. Thank you for all your hard work and long hours.

Mr. Bshara wished to publicly thank Robert Jaskilka, he did all the number crunching for the meeting without him it would have been impossible to get everything the Board needed for their meetings and run the daily business in the Finance Department.

Mr. King thanks both Mr. Bshara and Mr. Jaskilka for a job well done, anything the Board ask for was always provided at the earliest convenience.

Elizabeth Lynch, Town & City Clerk, I am sorry I did arrive late this evening I am just wondering why Ms. Blackwell needed to be called. The Board has a quorum and even if they didn't there are arrangements that could be made to bring a Board member in that is not out of Town. Proper Procedure is if she is absent, she is absent.

Ms. Blackwell stated that according to FOI she has the right to choose to be involved with the meeting via telephone.

Mr. King as well as a few other members agreed that Ms. Blackwell had voiced her desire to participate in the final budget via telephone, weeks prior to this evening.

Mr. Carl Williams, 2 Dogwood Drive

I have a question, I know how difficult this job is I sat on this Board, and I just do not understand why this Board felt it necessary to use \$550,000 from the City's Fund Balance to operate for the Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015. This is a saving for the City that we haven't been putting anything into. Why so the Administration can say they decrease the taxes? This Administration also wants to say they are fully funding Education, well it's not. I wish you the best.

No one else wished to speak, the public session was closed at 7:35 p.m.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the following meetings if found to be correct:

April 17, 2014

April 21, 2014 (Revised)

April 24, 2014

April 28, 2014

May 5, 2014

May 8, 2014

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

### **Communication #1 Dog Fund \$920**

Ms. Biasucci made a motion to approve the request to increase the revenue line item 2-001-0307-11-010-0009 Dog Fund by \$920 and the expense line item 1-001-0301-12-614-0007 Dog Fund \$920. Ms. Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

### **Communication #2 Library \$778**

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the request to increase the revenue line item 2-001-0305-17-010-0168 Library Grant by \$778 and the expense line item 1-001-0850-11-800-0168 Library Grant \$778. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

### **Communication #3 Town & City Clerk \$14,778**

Ms. Lynch advised the Board that the transfer request was need to fund the salaries within the Department because of the recent changes made, eliminating a clerk and revamping the salaries. The new fiscal year has already adjusted for these changes.

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$14,778 from Clerk 1-001-0802-11-110-0004 into Assistant Town & City Clerk 1-001-0802-11-110-0002 \$7,389 and Town and City Clerk 1-001-0802-11-110-0001 \$7,389. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

### **Communication #4 Police Department \$40,000**

Chief Hale addressed the Board stating every year it is difficult to estimate the Overtime the Department will need, it is strictly determined by situations that arise. This \$40,000 should be sufficient to finish out the fiscal year.

Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$40,000 from Regular Patrolmen Salary 1-001-0301-12-110-0012 into Overtime Police 1-001-0301-12-120-0001. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Communication #5 Police Department \$60,000**

Chief Hale again inform the Board that the volume of Private Duty assignments has increased this year, he is before the Board to request an increase to both the revenue and expense to fund the account.

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the request to increase the revenue line item 2-001-0308-12-010-0001 Private Duty Fees by \$60,000 and the expense line items:

1-001-0301-12-140-0001 Private Duty \$50,000

1-001-0301-12-223-0001 MERF 8,005

1-001-0215-11-231-0001 Social Security 1,995

Ms. Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Communication #6 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsorship \$1,000**

Mr. Veillette to increase the revenue line item 2-001-310-11-010-0022 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by \$1,000 and the expense line item 1-001-0201-11-611-0005 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by \$1,000. Ms Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

**Communication #7 Public Works \$26,000**

Mr. Novak discussed with the Board a few items prior to the transfer request before them. The first is the fact that the City Sweeper is down for repairs currently and the Department is behind on the sweeping of the streets. I would like to have the Board consider funding an out side vendor to sweep the streets for three weeks at a cost of \$10,000. I will leave this for you to consider and readdress at your next meeting.

Ms. Biasucci did not agree that spending \$10,000 on street sweep was a wise investment for the City at this time.

The other area of concern is the gas/fuel/diesel pumps at Public Works the system is out dated, there is no security preventing theft, or even a way of tracking who is using what for fuel. \$14,000 has been set aside to invest in a new system I will get it quoted and present at the next meeting.

Also as an aside I have provide the Board will a list of all the Public Works Vehicles on the road you will see they date back as far as 1996.

The request for transfers this evening would allow us to purchase a new pickup (with the funds already in the line item) and a used 2010 Ford Van. The Van will be used in the Building Department. The transfer for street sign will allow us to continue the program which are been underway, replacing all the street signs in the City.

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$26,000 as follows:

Line Item #	Trans. In	Trans. Out
0875-13-461-0026 New Vehicles	21,000	
0555-13-422-0001 Recycling Program		26,0000
0555-13-436-0003 Parks & Street Signs	5,000	

Ms. Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

#### **Communication #8 Tax Department \$571**

Without any representation from the Tax Department Mr. Kohut made a motion to table the request due to lack of information. Mr. Smerznak seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The request was tabled. (9 yes)

#### **Communication #9 Building Inspector \$500**

Ms. Biasucci made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$500 from 212-11-241-0002 Education Blight Officer into 212-11-630-0001 Small Tools. Ms. Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

#### **Public Session**

The meeting was opened to the public to discuss the late communication before the Board.

Mr. Heon advised he will be happy to discuss each of his communications as they come before the Board.

No one else wished to address the Board the Public Session was closed 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Boran made a motion to accept the late communication, place them on file and address as the Board see fit. Ms. Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (8 yes, 1 no Mr. Kohut)

#### **Late Communication #1 Donation Check \$500**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$500 from Other Department Expenses 1-001-0200-17-880-0003 into Summer Programs 1-001-0216-11-152-0001. Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

#### **Late Communication #2 Department of Justice \$756**

Ms. Waugh made a motion to increase the revenue line item 2-001-0305-17-010-1144 Dept of Justice Police Vests \$756 and the expense line item 1-001-0850-1-800-1144 Dept of Justice Police Vests \$756. Mr. Boran seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

#### **Late Communication #3 ARMS Med-Bed Grant**

Mr. Heon informed the Board that this item was brought to his attention after the City Auditors determined the Grant was never received by Ansonia. The City has an open receivable waiting to apply the \$4,000 Med-Bed purchase to and needs to be closed prior to year end. To the best of the Asst. Comptroller's knowledge and Mr. Heon it appears the Grant had expired prior to filling

all the necessary requirements of the Mathew's Foundation. The Award letter stated the Med-Bed had to be purchased, received and paid for prior to December 21, 2012. The purchase order was cut between the 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 but the Mathews Foundation would not honor the Award Letter.

Mr. Smerznak made a motion to table the request for funding at this time requesting the Asst. Comptroller, ARMS Chief and current Grant Writer try to dig up the paperwork regarding this Grant. Ms. Waugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The request was tabled (9 yes)

**Late Communication #4 ARMS \$7,900**

Mr. Heon advised the Board that Engineering Fees were not covered under the Bonding Project for the HVAC and an additional \$4,000 would be needed to cover that.

The new minimum equipment list came out from the State that needs to be filled prior to the State review. There are also needs in the Day Room that must come out of regular funding rather than the Bonding Project the \$2,000 would help meet those needs.

The last request for Office Equipment for \$1,900 would be used to replace the computers going from XP to Windows "7"

Ms Waugh made a motion to approve the request for transfers in the amount of \$7,900 as follows:

Line Item #	Trans. In	Trans. Out
1-001-0801-12-111-0010 Ambulance Crew		6,000
1-001-0801-12-461-0007 General Equipment	4,000	
1-001-0801-12-617-0001 Ambulance Supplies	2,000	
1-001-0801-12-241-0002 EMT Course		1,900
1-001-0801-12-461-0002 Office Equipment	1,900	

Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was denied. (6 yes, 3 no Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kohut, Mr. Veillette)

**Late Communication #5 ARMS \$44,000**

Mr. Heon reminded the Board of his Capital Plan, we were not given our request in the new 2014-2015 budget and we have funding in this budget I would like to request to use that to purchase a First Response Vehicle. Our goal is to decrease the number of vehicle and increase the number of trailers thus saving on repairs in the future. I do not want to write any grants for enclosed trailers prior to having the vehicle to pull them with; we would be in the same situation we were in with the Med-Bed and UTV. We are trying to do everything we can this year with the funding available knowing it will not be there next year.

The Board did question why there was so much extra funding in the Ambulance Crew line item. Mr. Heon explained that in the past they always budgeted for all volunteer hours that will not be the case for the 2014-2015 budget.

Ms. Blackwell made a motion to approve the request to transfer \$44,000 from Ambulance Crew 1-001-0801-12-111-0010 into ARMS Pick Up (New Line Item). Ms. Biasucci seconded the motion. The motion was denied. (4 yes, 5 no Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Kohut, Mr. Smerznak, Mr. Veillette, Ms. Waugh)

Chairman King will contact the Town and City Clerk advising them that in the future any late communications need to be submitted into the Clerk's office no later than the Friday before the meeting (unless an emergency).

With no other business to come before the Board Ms. Waugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kohut seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Donna Duclos (iit)  
Sec. Board of Apportionment & Taxation