

**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, May 5, 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.

Debra Branch
CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Members Present

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

The meeting was called to order the Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 9 members present.

Municipal Planning 901

The Department did not ask for any additions or changes to their budget of \$34,000. The Board was in agreement that the current proposed budget of \$34,000 should hold. All were in favor.

Capital Improvements 875

Mr. Veillette made a motion to approve the Capital Improvements budget at \$106,401.00. Ms. Geruntho seconded the motion. The motion was approve. All in favor.

Municipal Grants 850

Mr. Bshara explained to the Board that Town Road Aid and LOCIP are Grants offset by the revenue side of the budget. They are usually used to do annual paving throughout the City. The YSB 50-50 is run by the Board of Education.

The Board was in agreement to keep the Municipal Grants budget at \$531,159.00

Public Works 555

Ms. Waugh wished to discuss the Summer Help Program approved for funding by this Board. Although she believes in the program should this Board be creating line items before they are approved by the Board of Aldermen and in this case the Public Works Commission?

Mr. Bshara advised that just because this Board approves the funding for a program that does not elevate the Superintendent from going through the correct procedures and approvals necessary.

Economic Development 405

Ms. Sheila O'Malley was present to discuss her budget and any considers she has. Ms. O'Malley advised that although it is her first budget with the City of Ansonia it is not the first budget she has submitted. One of her main concerns was to have funding to cover any professional services needed in promoting properties.

- Engineering Fees
- Legal Fees to put together an RFQ
- Maps
- Small Matches for Grants

The line item established is 1-001-0405-18-330-0002 Professional Services \$14,610

There was some talk about moving the EDC Events out of the budget to Cultural Commission down the road. The Marketing Material which as been decreased to \$4,000 was address again, Ms. O'Malley does know of any immediate need for the line item, stating that flyers for advertising is probably the original thought. Ms. O'Malley's main focus is to retain and attract business with site in the City. She is hoping to secure funding for some of the sites the City currently has.

Mr. Veillette inquired if the Board could receive a monthly report on Matching Grants. Ms. O'Malley will supply the Board with this request, but insured them she is looking to spend her time securing the larger grants rather than do paperwork. The large grants take time and you won't see funding going in and out. Any matching grants the City may acquire are typically 80/20 and they can not be applied for without the financial backing of the City. Ms. O'Malley is currently working on the West Main Street, Riverwalk, Site pads and extension for an access road.

The Board had nothing else for Ms. O'Malley and was in agreement with the \$122,512 budget.

Mr. Bshara brought to the Board's attention one change that needed to be added to the Municipal Grants 850 budget.

850-13-435-0026 Municipal Grants and Aid, the revenue is in the budget however the expense has yet to be added at a total of \$80,336.00. With that change the Municipal Grants total budget is \$611,495.00

Corporation Counsel Marini Public Meetings Discussing Employees or Officials

Attorney Marini presented the Board with his legal opinion 2014-3 regarding the discussion of City Employees or Officials and their performance at public meetings. Any discussion regarding appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal needs to be held in executive session unless the individual being discussed requires the discussion be held at an open meeting. The Board was supplied the legal opinion in it's entirety to read at their leisure.

Board of Education 701

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lisi were present to answer any questions the Board may have.

With all the changes made to date the mill rate stands at 38.8224 which is .51 lower than the current fiscal year.

The fund balance currently is in the mid \$7,000,000, this is used as cash flow throughout the year.

Mr. Veillette commented that he was glad this Board returned some funding back into the fund balance for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Our bond rating is based on that and we are saving money for the taxpayers.

Other areas Mr. King wished to address was the Boys and Girls Club 1-001-0201-11-570-0004 last years contribution by the City was \$10,000 the wanted believes in the program and wanted to see if Ansonia could increase their contribution. To date the 2014-2015 allocation is \$20,000 maybe increasing it 100% isn't a wise decision. It was noted the funding goes to the operation budget of the organization. The program takes in over 300 kids a day all year round. The other valley towns Derby is contributing \$15,000-\$20,000 and Seymour has \$25,000 allocated.

Ms. Geruntho made a motion to approve the Boys and Girls Club 1-001-0201-11-570-0004 for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$15,000.00 Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (9 yes)

Other line items toss around for discussions were the Police Department Overtime, Auto Maintenance and College Credits. It was noted that the Overtime is always an estimate you can never judge that it is based on the activities that occur in Town. The college credit is a contractual agreement the Police have with their union.

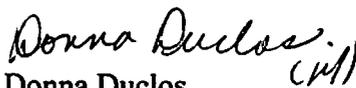
The Alarm Boxes were also discussed that maybe down the road an better system can be implemented through the City.

The Legal line item was discussed again it was mentioned that the City should have a firm consensus of what is covered in the Corporation Counsel's stipend and what the City pays as billable hours. Some resources are available from the State free of charge to the Cities we may want to look into that avenue.

Mr. King requested everyone to review the budget as it stands Thursday May 8, 2014 will be the last chance we will have to made any changes prior to presenting it to the Citizens of Ansonia on the 12th of May.

Ms. Waugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Ms. Pinto seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Duclos
Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation