

**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 14, 2014 at Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss budget issues for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Members Present

Ms. Blackwell
Ms. Pinto
Mr. Smerznak
Ms. Waugh
Mr. King

Public Works

The Board opened the meeting with Mr. Novak, Superintendent of Public Works to discuss the Temporary Seasonal Help Program. Mr. Novak advised the Board that he and the Mayor are very excited to implement such a program using resources from BH Care and the Veterans Administration for part time seasonal help to work the City's Parks. This is one of many programs we would like to try and get off the ground for May-August. The estimate is \$10/hour 4 hours per day for a maximum of 19.5 hours a week. The personnel will be doing such works as raking, trash pick up, flower planting etc. no heavy equipment will be used and each person will be well vetted and on the one strike you're out system. The Board was in agreement with the program and opted to place the funding in the Public Works line item. With this new allocation for 2014-2015 the Public Works Budget total would be increased to \$3,967,004.00

The Board suggested promoting the "Adopt a Spot" around the City where different local business support areas of the Town for Beautification.

Mr. Novak also discussed the department's fleet of trucks which are dying slowly. The City did purchase two in the 2012-2013 fiscal year but Mr. Novak would like to see the City get on a lease rotation buy/leasing two more in this fiscal year. The City is looking to move away from sand using salt only in the future and with the state of the old fleet that will not be possible. Mr. Novak will get firmer numbers for the April 21st meeting.

Board of Education

Question was brought before Mr. Bshara why the Crossing Guards do not reside in the Board of Education Budget. If that was the case then the City would not have to pay the unemployment at the end of the season because the Board of Education has other seasonal workers that are exempt from collection. Mr. Bshara advised that other Cities and Towns have the Crossing Guards in the Police Department because it is considered a public safety issue.

The Board of Education was largely debated this evening, it is understood that this Board along with the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor can only allocate the funding to the

Board of Education. They can not dictate how the funding is expended that is a State regulation. The Board of Education requested \$29,879,549 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 which is an increase of 1,879,549 over last year's approved budget. BOAT's largest concern with the funding of the Board of Education budget is any shortfalls will directly affect the children of the City with program cuts, and supplies. Salaries and benefits are contractual and will remain intact.

One of the main issues the City is faced with time and time again with the Board of Education is when the BOE receives a grant or a program they want to roll that program into the City Budget when the grant has expired. The City can not afford to fund these programs year after year. Three line items were looked at for a total of \$1,700,000 (Certified Salaries, Benefits, Tuition) this is up 9.5% from last year the only way there can be such an increase is if there is additional head counts in those numbers. The Board of Education has been advised in the past that when a grant is received try not to use it for bodies only, because when the grant is over the City can not continue to fund the program.

Concerns were what is the Board of Education doing with \$1,600,000 over last year, what will the City see for that?

Over and over the Board members reminded each other that no cuts can be made to salaries, only the bottom line can be changed and any reductions will affect the children.

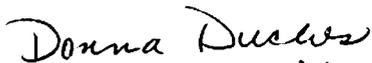
The last salary freeze the Board of Education realized was in 2009, in order to instill one now all the Board of Education Unions would have to work that into their contracts.

Mr. King feels the Board of Aldermen and Mayor have backed the \$29,579,549 budget which represents a 5.64% increase for the Board of Education. We should support this budget showing we are a united governing body of Ansonia.

If any members feel they need to dispute the funding for the Board of Education they should attend their meeting, or discuss it with the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee. Ms. Waugh felt it necessary to find out how the \$300,000 reduction was arrived at, is that a sufficient reduction to their budget. She will communicate with the Board of Aldermen and report back.

The Board chose to end here this evening, budget review will continue on the 17th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Duclos

(vll)

Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation