

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

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14 APR -9 AM 11:27

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The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held a regular meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014 at Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss budget issues for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Members Present

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

Library

Mr. King brought to the Board's attention a request which will be presented during the April 21st meeting from the Library. The Library's computers have become obsolete and are in need of replacement. There are an estimated 16 computers in total at a cost of approximately \$12,000. This Board can consider funding this request in the current fiscal year from BOAT Contingency or add to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget they are currently working on. (This does not take into consideration new printers, the existing ones may not work with the new computers)

Mr. Veillette question weather the Library ever worked with the Grant Writer to apply for any grants for funding. There appears to be a lack of communication between the Library and this Board. It was noted that the Ansonia Library has the shortest hours of operation in the Valley. It was also noted that the Union Contract drives the ability to eliminate Full-Time employees replacement them with Part-Time personnel.

Mr. King is concerned we have a Library that doesn't service the City due to lack of resources. It was noted that the Library endowment has funded the building, books and other expenses for years. If the Library was ever closed that endowment would go elsewhere.

Fire

Overall there were no drastic changes to the Fire Department budget the Board did agreed to changes in the following areas:

1-001-0401-12-440-0006 Repair/Main Scott Air Pack change to \$12,000
1-001-0401-12-243-0003 New Fire Chief Expense change to zero
1-001-0401-12-611-0001 Fire Dept Office Supplies change to \$713

Brings the new budget for the Fire Department to \$248,750 a zero percent increase. All members were in agreement.

Mr. Veillette is concerned with the new laws in effective regarding Part-Time employees. What is the City's position on this? Mr. Bshara advised the union contract states anything over 19 ½ hours a week would allow the employee certain benefits, the City Personnel Policy states over 30 hours the employee is considered full-time and entitled to benefits. There are some areas of confusion regarding this matter. This Board needs to have the Salary Committee come before us to ensure we are handling personnel correctly and not incurring any additional benefit costs to the City.

Finance Department

The Department is all set with computers for this fiscal year. The increase in the Bookkeeper is due to a new full time position rather than part time. The net result of this budget will be provided next week but it should come in at either zero or a net reduction over this current year.

Recreation

It was noted that the City allow all children to play regardless if they can afford the fees or not. There will be a summer clinic at a cost of \$10,000 for children between the ages of 5-14, it should be well attended. The Recreation budget stays where it is at \$96,700.00.

Mr. Bshara also advised the Board that they are working on several areas of the budget

- The Trash Contract, looking at the billable tonnage as well as the haul-away and recycling accounts.
- Healthcare- the City may realize a little savings of \$100,000 or more.
- Energy- working on getting clarity for the electric bills and Yankee Gas
- The Armory and Library will be moving to gas shortly.

ARMS

It has been determined that the two EMT Supervisors have been approved on a salary resolution. They have been paid out of the Ambulance Crew in the past and just this new budget year are they being broken out into a new line item. The Secretary Salary is being for the EMT Supervisors when they come in to do paperwork. The Board was not comfortable with that and chose to eliminate the funding 1-001-0801-12-111-0003 Secretary Salary changed to zero.

The Holiday and Sick pay for the Ambulance Crew needs to be reviewed. And Mr. Bshara believes there may be an excess of \$50,000 in the Ambulance Crew line item for this current year 2013-2014.

The Board chose to end here this evening, budget review will continue on the 10th. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos

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Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation