

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

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The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held a budget workshop on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers of Ansonia City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Mayor's Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Members Present

Ms. Blackwell
Mr. Cassetti
Mr. Delibero
Mr. Izzo
Mr. Smerznak
Mr. King

Members Absent

Mr. Veillette

The meeting was called to order by Chairman King. The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. The record shows 6 members present, there is a quorum.

This meeting is meant to be an open discussion informal meeting to discuss any and all aspects for the Mayor's Budget.

Mr. Chris Tymniak, Chief Administrative Officer was present to discuss and answer any questions regarding the Mayor's Department.

Areas of discussion began with the Summer Employment and the Summer Program line item. The new program which began last year was widely received with the 5 day a week camp running from 9:00am to 3:00pm. It was two fold employing the teens of Ansonia as well as providing a safe environment for the youth to go. Over 200 children attended the no cost camp which ran for five weeks, also offered were a few field trips with fees on ability to pay scale. More trips are on the agenda for this year.

The Office Temporaries line item is used to cover positions when employees are on vacation or taking personal days, the union does not allow the movement from one department to another for coverage unless it is an emergency.

The Diversity Training line item is down this year from \$6,500 to \$4,000 the city is sharing this cost with the City of Derby and pooling their resources.

Miscellaneous expense is used for items like stationary and flower for a passing, the \$4,500 can be used quickly within the year.

Harvest/Heritage Festival has been moved to the Cultural Commission.

A Safety Building is being proposed for this fiscal year, an agreement has been met with the Department of Housing giving the City 3.8 acres at the Olsen Drive Complex. The idea is to create a Public Safety Building; the City would not be able to begin construction until all the remaining buildings are down at the location but by funding the project it shows commitment to the Federal Government.

The \$30,000 request for the Dog Pound is to enhance the building that is already there, it certainly isn't enough to fund a new building but improvements are greatly needed.

The Farmer Market is something that was done last year but the City would like to make it a bigger event including other vendors from around the area selling soaps, honey art as well as vegetables.

Lastly Mr. Tymniak would like to propose a line item for Events Coordinator this person would spearhead events such as the Farmers Markets. We would like to see it funded at a level of \$6,000 and would be a stipend to someone for different events.

The Board discussed the idea of a City Purchasing Agent the ability of being able to streamline the purchase with Ansonia. There was a Purchasing Agent in the past and is something the City may more back toward down the road.

Mr. King noted that reviewing the Mayor's Budget the largest savings is realized in contract negotiation.

Some discussion regarding the Senior Center and the \$3,700 for repairs, what is it for? Repairing of the tile floor and a new vacuum were among the items mentioned.

It was noted that the State's Budget has not been received and not factored into this budget. The Board discussed the difference between BOAT Contingency and the Settlement Contingency (used for the contract

negotiations) with some of the newer members on the Board clarification was important.

The Board has detail budgets for the upcoming workshops for Police, Fire and ARMS.

The Board discussed the uncertainty of where the Police Department's Overtime will be each year. It is one of those areas hard to pin point.

Mr. King advised the Board that last year's budget concern was largely the Board of Education but on the final meeting the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget before them.

Look over the areas of concern and bring your questions to the department heads.

In the Fire Department questions were raised as to the difference between Care and Repair of Apparatus, what is spent on the care of the Fire Houses, are the fire boxes still used within the City?

Also concerns that grants are not being sought after for equipment such as the Scott Air Packs.

Mr. King noted that ARMS requested \$797,912 and was cut back to \$730,955 which still remains an \$18,455 increase over last year. The income verse expenses should be reviewed.

Mr. King urged the Board to review the department budgets and bring your questions Wednesday.

With no other business to come before the Board Ms. Blackwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cassetti seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos
Donna Duclos (rd)

Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation