

Board of Apportionment & Taxation  
City of Ansonia

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

The Board of Apportionment & Taxation of the City of Ansonia held a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at Ansonia City Hall. The Departments to be discussed were Police, Public Works and ARMS.

**Members Present**

Ms. Blackwell  
Mr. Cassetti  
Mr. Duffus  
Mr. Lopez (Left 7:00 p.m.)  
Mr. Veillette  
Mr. King

**Members Absent**

Mr. Smerznak

The Board rose for the Pledge of Allegiance, the record shows 6 members present.

**Police Department 301 \$6,101,927**

Police Lieutenant Williams presented the Police Department Budget to BOAT, he explained that the Police Department has three different Union Contract the Chief and Lieutenants are one, Swore personnel are another, and City Hall Employees a total of ten make up the last.

The budget includes two pensions the old Police Pension which is a Pay as you Go, this was used before the City go into the State Pension. This Pension will eventually phase out as retirees and their spouses pass. The second Pension is the State Pension know as MERF the City funds that pension at a rate of 14.98% of the Officer's Salary (the Officer's pay a portion into it as well)

Buy Back Sick Time is a line item based on years of service, it is an estimate because the department never knows at the time of budget preparation whom may be retiring and collecting on their Sick Time. The total is \$369,878.40. The average estimated retirees range between 3-4 per year.

The main concern the Chief wished the Lt. Williams to discuss was the need for a third Lieutenant. A study was done years ago which determined the need for the third position. The Department is faced with new mandates causing a lack of manpower and this position would be exactly what is needed. The Lieutenants would be broken down by responsibility an Operational Lieutenant, a Patrol Lieutenant and an Administrative Lieutenant.

The other big item in the budget is the Body Cameras budgeted at \$27,900 a year for four years this cost is for the storage cost for the cameras. They were purchased with a grant but the City needs to maintain the video on the cameras and that comes at a cost. Tazer Corporation a leader in the industry provided a free tazer with everybody camera purchased. Also covered in the storage cost over the 4 years is at the end of year 2 ½ all cameras are replaced and at the end of year 5 the cameras are replaced, as well as if any are damaged in the line of duty during that time frame they are replaced at no cost to the City. The Department is currently looking into what the requirements are to keeping the video for evidence purposes. All the video would need to be vetted and that also in part of the duties the Chief is looking to assign to the new Lieutenant.

Overall the only increases to the Police Department Budget are Contractual, the request for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant and the Body Cameras. It was noted that Private Duty is a revenue earner for the City, as they charge 20% over the Officers rate which goes directly back to the City.

The Board asked about the 7<sup>th</sup> Sergeant added on last year, it was explained that that position spends 80% of his time in the Evidence Room with the other 20% of his time scheduling. It was also noted that if the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant position was filled he would be trained to cover for the Sergeant in the Evidence Room as needed.

Lt. Williams did not that the Department is nearly fully staffed with two new officers coming out of the academy shortly; this along with crime being down should keep overtime in check. The Board should be aware that nearly 30% of the Department is within retirement range.

#### **Public Works 555 \$4,043,405**

Superintendent Michael D'Alessio addressed the Board, although fairly new at the position, Mr. D'Alessio is working on making some changes to realize some savings. It was noted that any new personnel hired by the City are not receiving the sick pay buy back as negotiated by the City. The Haul-Away Account was running low this year so that was increase slightly up \$14,722. The seasonal help will be used again to try and save funding by not hiring outside contractors. Mr. D'Alessio is also looking for an new vendor for paper supplies throughout the City.

It was noted that the \$45,000 allocated for Building Repairs is for materials only all the work is done by the department and this covers all the Fire Houses, City Hall, Library, Nolan Field, the Senior Center and Armory.

The Board questioned why there wasn't a saving in Gasoline with the new metered pumped and lower gas prices. The Board would like to see Mr. D'Alessio monitor the meter to confirm with the exception of the Police Department and Mayor all other City Departments should be limited to their gas usage.

The Board was made aware of the Housing Authority dumping and using the salt and sand of the City's. The City needs to look into charging these fees back to the Housing Authority.

**ARMS 801 \$753,640**

Director Jared Heon addressed the Board regarding his budget. 90% of his staff is paid with a small group of volunteers that still remain. The staff includes one full time supervisor and four part time point people. It is very hard to staff at a part time level. ARMS is always losing good help to other employment.

Vehicle Maintenance increased to \$32,500 up \$12,500 from last year. The cost to do anything on the vehicles at ARMS is expensive.

ARMS has done over 3,000 last year using more supplies requiring more funding each year. ARMS is currently be trained to carry Narcan the entire Department must be trained in order to carry. Director Heon is considered purchasing a Lock Box System to keep all controlled drugs in.

The Uniform Line Item is one Mr. Heon has tried to increase over the years. He has tried slowly to get everyone better outfitted as well as looking into Class A Uniforms down the road.

Mr. Heon estimates the collections are up \$40,000 this year with the new collection firm and the percentage fee is lower at 6 ½%. The estimated revenue for the coming year is \$700,000.

Mr. Heon and the surrounding Towns are meeting with suppliers to try and work on cost savings by buying together. They are also trying to purchase like equipment so when everyone is out in the field they will know how the equipment works without question.

Lastly Mr. Heon wanted the Board to know that in his Capital Improvement Plan all his Ambulances are quoted has fully equipped. He is hoping the taxpayers of the City look in favor of it.

Mr. King requested the Board review the Departments and try to come up with some suggestion to fund the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant for the Police Department by cutting the funds within the Department. The goal is to submit to the Board of Aldermen a Budget within reason without a tax increase.

Mr. Veillette made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion was approved. (5 yes)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Duclos  
Secretary Board of Apportionment & Taxation