

INCOME TAX BOARD

City of Findlay
May 6, 2015

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mayor Lydia L. Mihalik, Don Rasmussen, Susan Hite, Jim Staschiak II, Ron Monday.

Staff Present: Andrew Thomas and Kathy Launder.

Guests: Holly Frische.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Staschiak requested that the minutes of the February 4, 2015, be amended as follows:

“Thomas stated that around or approximately 40 businesses are being deferred. Thomas stated that there are no criteria for deferral.”

Motion to amend minutes and proposed by Staschiak, second by Hite. Motion passed 4-1.

Motion to amend minutes to add “It is on a case by case basis.” At the end of Staschiak’s amendment, by Rasmussen, second by Mayor Mihalik. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

W-2 Totals: Thomas distributed a list detailing the number of W-2s entered during a tax year. Also included are the residents working out of town. Staschiak requested that this become an annual piece of information provided. Staschiak requested that a column be added to detail total dollar amounts reported along with the number of W-2s entered.

NEW BUSINESS

2015 Year-To-Date Collections: Thomas distributed a report that showed overall collections are up 8.143%. Employer Withholding is down 0.740% over last year, Individual Collections are up 3.504% over last year, and Business collections are up 119.863% over last year.

Continued Shared Services: Rasmussen stated that the Village of Vanlue is talking about putting an income tax on the ballot. The Village of Vanlue would like the City of Findlay to administer the income tax. The Village of Vanlue would have approximately 200 tax returns to process. Thomas reported that Arlington has 700 tax returns that the Income Tax Department currently processes. Based on a percentage, the number of potential income tax returns from the Village of Vanlue would be 2% of the Income Tax Department’s currently activity. Thomas reported that the State of Ohio is pushing for these types of shared services. Thomas stated that he is indifferent about the proposal. He stated there have not been any issues with Arlington.

OTHER BUSINESS

Holly Frische, City Councilperson for the 1st Ward, inquired about the installment tax payment program. She inquired why all taxpayers are not eligible and how a taxpayer can apply.

Helps prevent significant overpayment of taxes which would have resulted in significant refunds which results in significant budget deficit as in 2007.

Mayor stated that we are comfortable the way it is being managed by the Income Tax Administrator.

Thomas stated that a taxpayer extended us grace, so we extended grace in return. This is why we don't have to refund a significant amount of overpayment to this taxpayer.

Frische stated that small business owners have expressed frustration to her. If they don't pay on time then they have to pay a penalty. Frische is not comfortable that the authority to make the decision as to whether a taxpayer can defer is up to one person and not a board.

Staschiak stated that all taxpayers are the same and should be treated the same.

Mayor stated that not all taxpayers are the same. Thomas has to justify his decision for approving installment payments.

Frische asked how a company can apply for installment payments.

Staschiak stated that this is not personal; it is a tax issue and how it is collected. He stated that seven business owners have approached him for a deferral. Nobody is saying it is improper. If it is clearly documented, clearly informed. This can only change by Council Ordinance.

Rasmussen stated that Thomas manages the Income Tax Department. If Thomas states that this program is working, the Mayor supports him and Rasmussen supports him.

Frische thinks it should go back to the way it was.

The current Ordinance gives flexibility.

Happy to have a committee of the whole meeting for Thomas to answer questions about installment payments.

Motion to make no changes to the ordinance by Director Rasmussen, second by Mayor. Motion passed 3-2.

Next Meeting: Meeting schedule for 2015: August 5 and November 4. All meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the third floor conference room of the Municipal Building.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Launder
City Clerk