

Contact: James L. Richetelli, Jr.
Mayor, City of Milford
City Hall
110 River Street
Milford, CT 06460
Phone 203 783-3201
Fax 203 783-3329
E-mail Mayor@ci.milford.ct.us
Web site www.ci.milford.ct.us

City of Milford

PressRelease

MAYOR RICHETELLI RELEASES CITY BUDGET

**Reflects Continued National Economic Picture and
State Budget Crisis.**

**Maintains Current Level of City Services – Adds No
New Services.**

State Funding Crucial to Taxpayers.

**Revenue Down as a Result of State and National
Economy.**

Milford, CT, February 1, 2010: In accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of the Charter of the City of Milford, I respectfully submit, herewith, the general government portion of the City budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

As we begin another budget year in Milford, we do so after experiencing a little more than a year in America that has been unparalleled since the Great Depression. The national economic picture, although showing small

signs of improvement, continues to falter. The State's budget crisis escalates with each passing day. Although Milford has fared fairly well throughout, these factors have a direct effect upon the City's ability to provide basic municipal services as a reasonable cost that our taxpayers can afford.

This budget maintains the basic essential services that the City provides to our citizens. There are many other needs but we simply cannot afford anything new.

On the expenditure side of the budget, I have accounted for our contractual obligations to our employees. Last year, we asked for and received a wage freeze from them in exchange for a 2% increase this year. This budget reflects that agreement. It also takes into account increases in health insurance, and casualty and liability insurance. The balance of the budget remains relatively flat.

The revenue portion of the budget is a major concern this year. Sharp decreases in the interest we receive on our investments and decreased revenue from the real estate conveyance tax are examples of the poor national economy's impact upon us.

Most important, though, is the expected decrease in Milford's share of aid from the State of Connecticut. At this time, it is impossible to predict how deep this cut will be, given the State's growing deficit. We will maintain a dialogue with our State legislators so that we are constantly up-to-date on what is happening in Hartford. I am certain that we can expect that they will be fighting to maintain our State aid. This is essential in keeping property taxes under control.

In summary, the City of Milford's financial position is solid. However, it is very important that we achieve a balance between the services that are absolutely necessary and what is desirable. This budget achieves that balance. It is a realistic budget with the means of providing these services at a reasonable and affordable cost – always with the taxpayers in mind.

I respectfully request your consideration of this budget and, as always, I am available to assist the Board of Finance in any way possible throughout the budget process.